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Livestock and Meat Situation

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Economics, Statistics,
and Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department of
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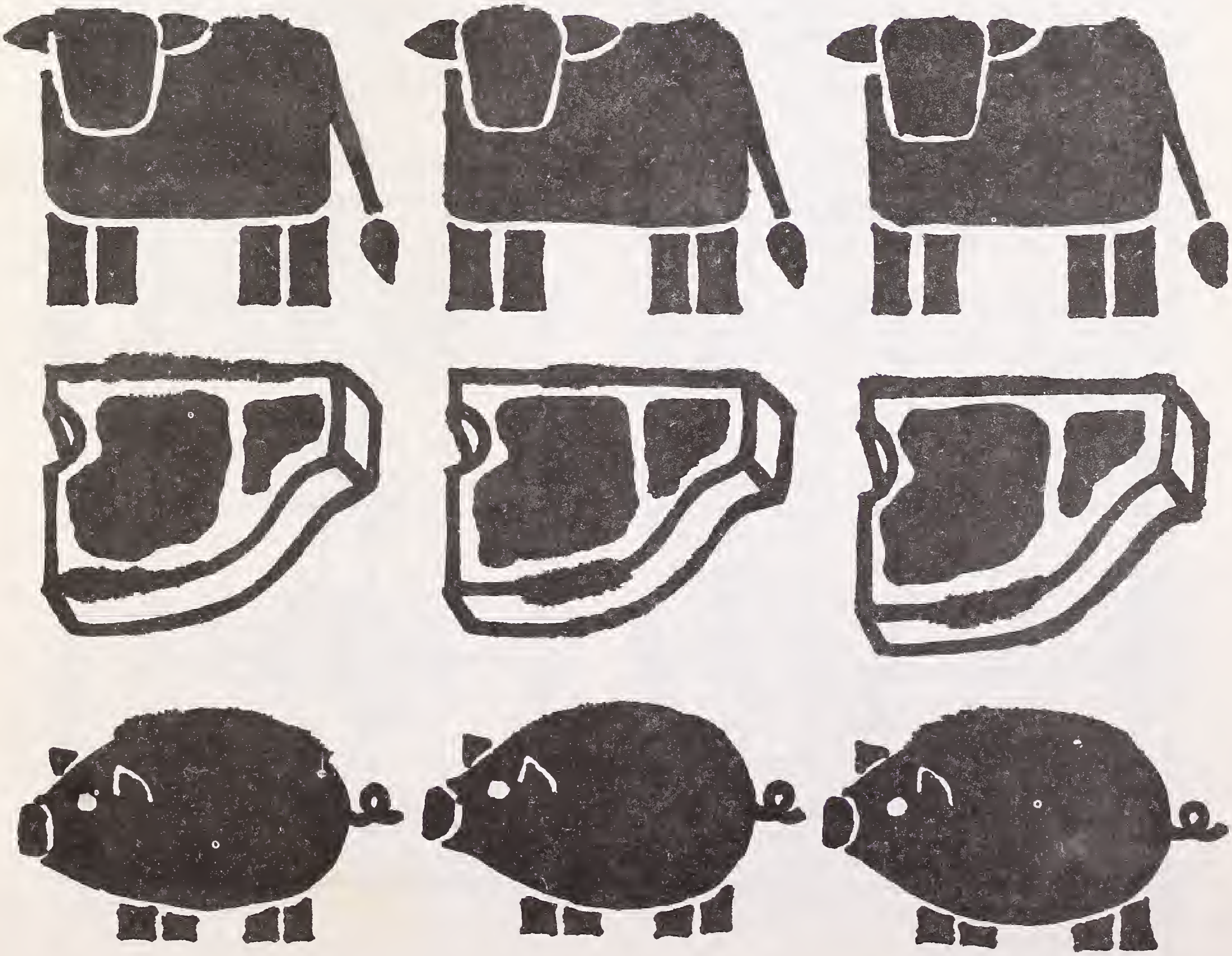
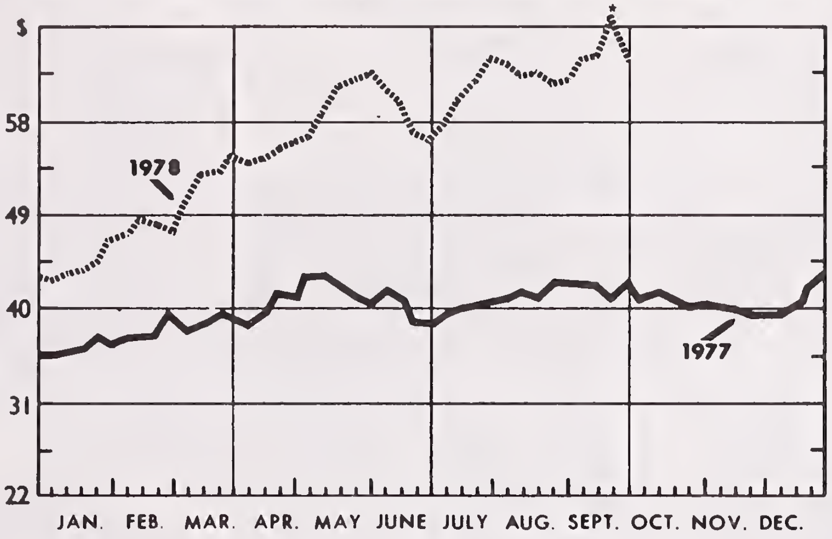
Approved by the
World Food and
Agricultural Outlook
and Situation Board

LMS-223

OCTOBER
1978

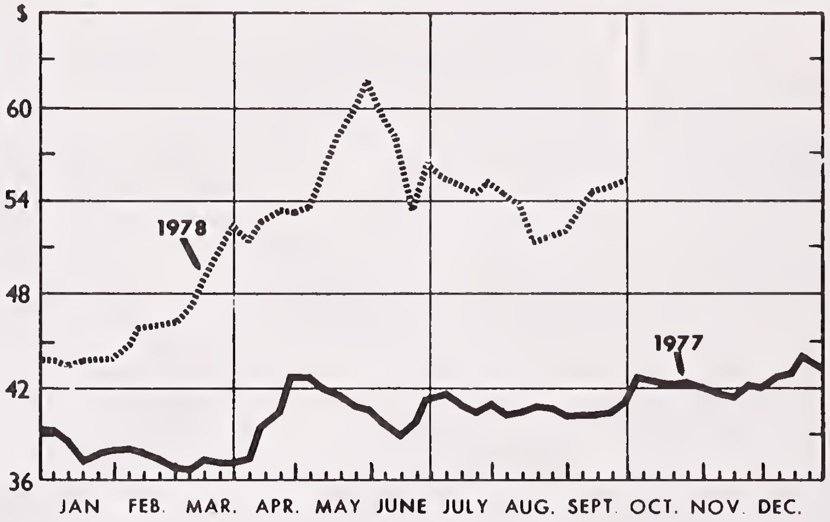


AVE. PRICE CHOICE FEEDER STEERS 600—700# — KANSAS CITY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE *67.75 Livestock, Poultry, Grain & Seed Division — AMS

AVE. PRICE CHOICE SLAUGHTER STEERS-OMAHA 1100—1300#



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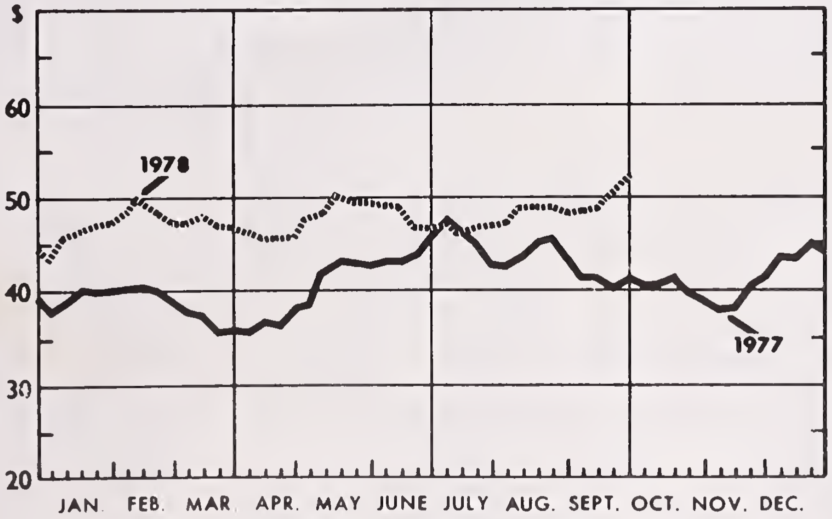
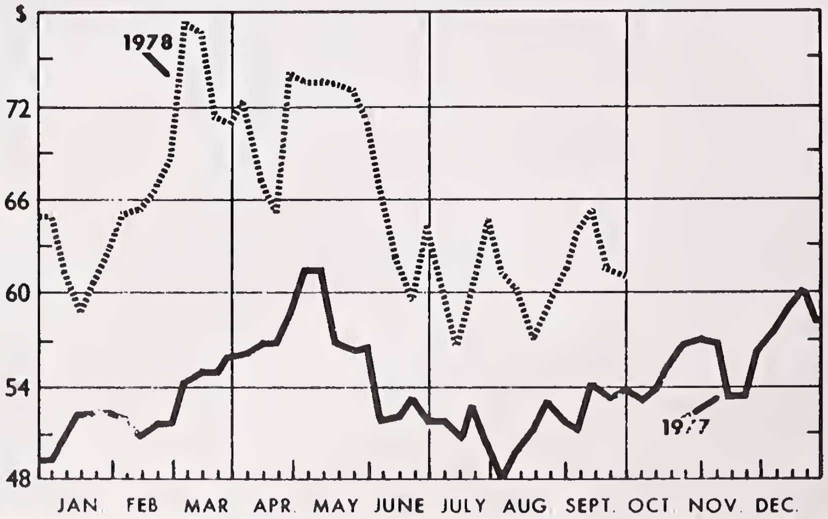
AVERAGE PRICE BARROWS & GILT*



*SEVEN MARKETS COMBINED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Livestock, Poultry, Grain & Seed Division — AMS

AVE. PRICE CHOICE SLAUGHTER LAMBS-SAN ANGELO



SHORN SPRING LAMBS QUOTED MARCH TO OCTOBER, WOOLED LAMBS OCTOBER TO MARCH.

X NO SALES CONFIRMED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Livestock, Poultry, Grain & Seed Division — AMS

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

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Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
October 3, 1978

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Commodity Economics Division
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Washington, D.C. 20250

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The *Livstock and Meat Situation* is published in February, April, June, August, October and December.

SUMMARY

Through the first half of 1979, cattle and hog prices are expected to remain above year-earlier levels while poultry prices run near, or above, their year-earlier level. This price outlook is based on an expectation of smaller red meat supplies, larger poultry output, and a continued strong consumer demand for meat.

Current pork production prospects suggest a lower output than previously anticipated. Pork producers appear to be taking a very cautious and conservative approach to expand production, as indicated by intentions. Data in the September 1 Hogs and Pigs report showed 1 percent fewer market hogs on hand and producers' intentions to farrow only 3 percent more sows in the September-February period. These plans for a modest expansion are occurring despite large grain supplies, low grain prices, and relatively favorable hog prices.

Hog slaughter this fall will probably be below a year earlier. However, low feed costs may prompt hog producers to feed to heavier weights, keeping production near year-earlier levels. Winter slaughter could equal or exceed January-March 1978 slaughter, depending to a considerable extent on winter weather. If the 3-percent increase in September-November farrowing intentions is realized, spring-quarter pork production may be up by a similar amount.

Severe winter weather and disease have affected pork production the past 2 years. Death losses have been large. This may have stifled some producer plans for expansion. Another severely cold winter would probably hold down production again, while a mild winter might increase production above current expectation.

Placements of cattle on feed have continued at high levels this summer. Large grain supplies and low grain prices are expected to favor a continued large placement of cattle on feed during the upcoming months. This will probably support year-to-year increases in fed cattle slaughter through mid-1979. However, sharp reductions in nonfed

cattle slaughter will more than offset a larger fed cattle slaughter and total beef production will continue 3 to 5 percent below year-earlier levels.

Prospects for large grain crops, low grain prices, and higher livestock prices point to an improved profit picture for most livestock producers. But cattle and hog producers that have enterprises requiring the purchase of feeder animals probably will not fare as well as others because of higher feeder animal prices.

For the consumer, the lower supplies of red meat suggest higher retail prices. While retail meat prices may continue to ease off this fall, they will probably begin to rise near yearend or in early 1979. However, increases in poultry supplies may moderate the rise in retail red meat prices.

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Commercial Meat Production and Livestock Prices

	1977			1978				1979[1]	
	II	III	IV	I	II	III[1]	IV[1]	I	II
Production:									
Beef (mil. lb.)	6,158	6,321	6,220	6,104	5,936	5,925	5,900	5,950	5,650
% Δ year earlier	0	-4	-3	-3	-4	-6	-5	-3	-5
Pork (mil. lb.)	3,184	3,073	3,500	3,242	3,264	3,150	3,500	3,275	3,375
% Δ year earlier	+12	+2	-5	-2	+3	+3	0	+1	+3
Lamb and Mutton (mil. lb.)	86	84	81	75	76	72	75	77	74
% Δ year earlier	+5	-9	-12	-17	-12	-14	-7	+3	-3
Veal (mil. lb.)	187	205	201	178	149	140	145	95	65
% Δ year earlier	+5	0	-10	-11	-20	-32	-28	-47	-56
Total Red Meat (mil. lb.)	9,615	9,683	10,002	9,599	9,425	9,287	9,620	9,397	9,164
% Δ year earlier	+4	-2	-4	-3	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3
Broilers[2] (mil. lb.)	2,399	2,424	2,248	2,327	2,547	2,645	2,475	2,560	2,800
% Δ year earlier	+4	+2	+3	+8	+6	+9	+10	+10	+10
Turkeys[2] (mil. lb.)	365	672	645	228	400	685	670	285	480
% Δ year earlier	-1	-5	-3	+9	+10	+2	+4	+25	+20
Total Red Meat & Poultry (mil. lb.)	12,379	12,779	12,895	12,154	12,372	12,617	12,765	12,242	12,444
% Δ year earlier	+4	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-1	+1	+1
Prices:									
Choice steers, Omaha 900-1100 lb. $/cwt.	40.77	40.47	42.42	45.77	55.06	53.75	53-55	54-56	57-59
Barrows & gilts, 7 mkts. $/cwt.	40.87	43.85	41.38	47.44	47.84	48.52	48-50	49-51	49-51
Slaughter lambs, Choice San Angelo $/cwt.	55.76	51.88	56.50	67.67	69.14	61.07	64-66	64-66	66-68
Broilers, 9-city avg.[3] Cents/lb.	42.3	42.4	37.6	41.8	47.6	46.7	42-44	44-46	46-48
Turkeys, New York[4] Cents/lb.	51.5	53.1	61.3	60.2	61.4	68.0	68-70	62-64	60-62

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected. [3] Wholesale weighted average. [4] Wholesale, 8-16 lb. young hens.

FEED SITUATION AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION COSTS

Large feed grain and soybean crops again this year will keep concentrate feed supplies plentiful. Consequently, unless an unusually strong export demand for feed grains and soybeans develops, prices will likely remain favorable for livestock feeding. Many grain-livestock producers may opt to market at least a portion of their grain crop through cattle and hogs. Price prospects for cattle and hogs during 1979 suggest this is an option that may receive careful consideration by many producers.

As a result of large grain crops last year and prospects for even larger ones this year, feeding costs were relatively low this summer, although slightly above those of a year ago. During August and September of 1977, the farm price of corn was near $1.60 per bushel but increased through the fall. This year, corn prices have not declined to last year's low level, but they are dropping—rather than rising—into the fall.

Forage Supplies Better Than A Year Ago

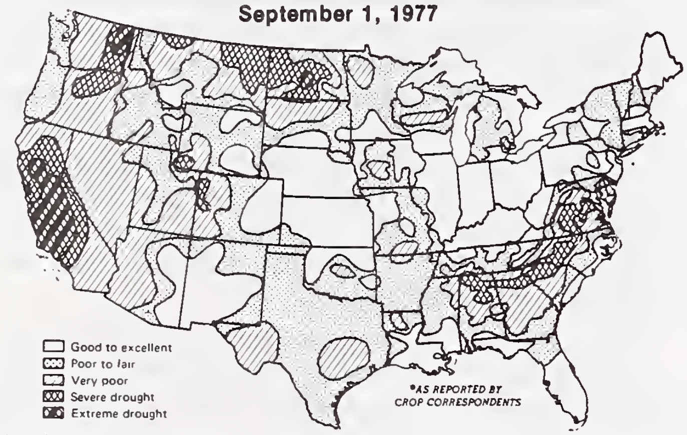
In general, pastures and ranges are in better condition than they were a year ago. Dry weather in much of Texas and surrounding States has reduced forage supplies, but rains over some of these areas have improved grazing conditions in recent weeks. With the lower cattle inventory, sufficient grazing has been available to meet the needs in most areas.

Hay production has also been larger this year than in the past few years. Indicated 1978 production is 138 million tons, 5 percent greater than the 1977 crop and 15 percent greater than 1976. This large crop will bring hay stocks back up to a level that will be more than adequate to meet needs, particularly since there has been a sharp reduction in the number of forage-consuming animals.

Moisture conditions during the next month or so will be critical to the planting and growth of crops seeded for grazing this winter. Moisture will also be critical to winter wheat grazing. Poor planting

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*

September 1, 1977

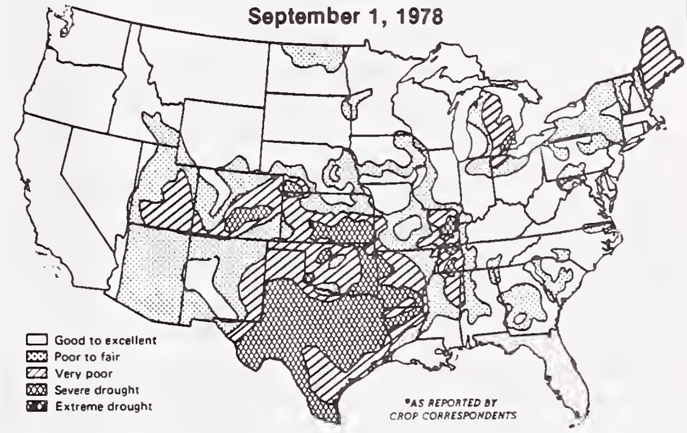


*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. SRS 74-77(9) STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*

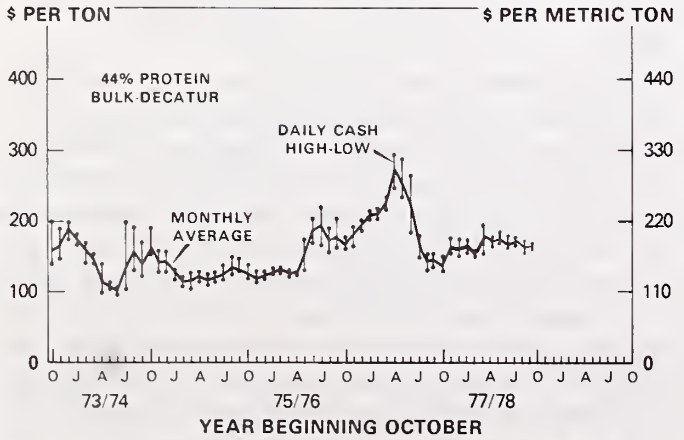
September 1, 1978



*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

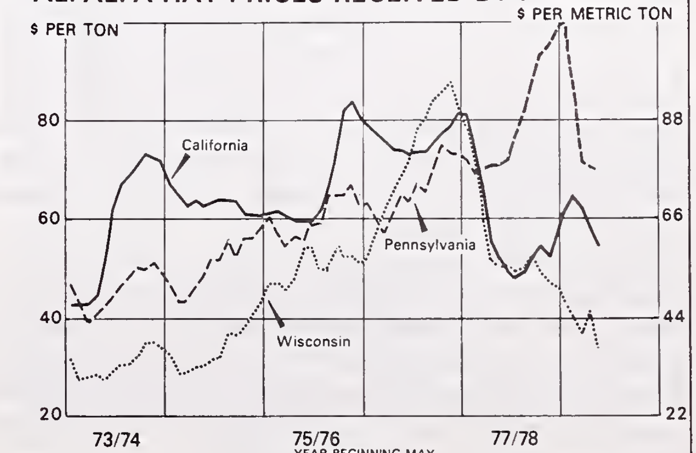
USDA NEG. ESCS 78-78(9)

SOYBEAN MEAL PRICES

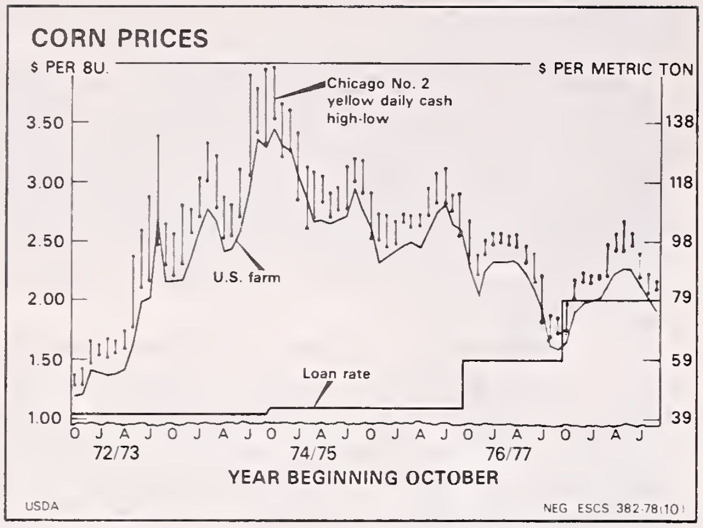


USDA NEG. ESCS 958-78(10)

ALFALFA HAY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS



USDA NEG. ESCS 957-78(10)



and growing conditions in the traditional winter wheat grazing areas of Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma would limit this source of forage.

Livestock Production Costs— A Mixed Situation

How livestock producers are faring now depends a great deal on the type of operation. Cattle feeders and pork producers with feeder pig finishing enterprises are seeing their costs rise sharply as a result of higher feeder animal prices. Feeder cattle prices have been $20 to $25 per 100 pounds higher this summer than a year ago. Feeder pig prices are also much higher.

These higher feeder animal prices are pushing up the cost of production. Total production costs for both cattle and hog feeders who purchased animals this summer are probably above current prices for the finished animals. Thus, it will take an increase in fat cattle and slaughter hog prices between now and slaughter time just for the producer to break even.

Costs for cow-calf producers, farrow-to-finish hog producers, and feeder-pig producers are remaining at more moderate levels. The large grain and forage crops are keeping feed costs for cow-calf men down. The large grain crops are also keeping feed costs down for hog producers. However, costs of inputs such as labor, energy, and other nonfeed items continue to rise.

In summary, the major escalating cost item for livestock feeders today is feeder animals. Ironically, what becomes an escalating cost for one group of producers is additional income for another group. When grain prices decline as they have in recent months, much of the lower feed costs gets bid into the price of feeder animals.

CATTLE

Beef production will continue below year-earlier levels during the coming months as a result of a large drop in nonfed slaughter. The cattle herd does not have the capacity to produce the large quantities of beef that were produced during the last 2 or 3 years. As herd rebuilding gets underway, this will further restrict beef production.

As fall began, cattle prices were considerably above a year ago. Choice slaughter steer prices were $12 to $15 higher, Choice feeder steers were almost $25 higher, and cow prices were $12 to $14 higher. These higher prices have improved the profit situation for cattlemen and will likely prompt a turnaround in the cattle inventory during the next 2 or 3 years.

Cattle Feeding Continues To Rise

Large grain supplies and relatively low grain prices have favored a rapid expansion in cattle feeding during the past year. Higher fed cattle prices have also helped create an optimistic tone among cattle feeders.

Placements of cattle on feed have been running very high since mid-1977, with heifers making up a large part of these placements. The number of heifers on feed was record large on July 1, 1978. Increases in the inventory of cattle on feed have been the largest for calves. Large grain supplies and low grain prices favor the placement of lighter weight animals. Current supply and price expectations for the grain crops suggest that a large number of calves will probably continue to move into feedlots.

Placements during July and August were record large for the 7 major cattle feeding States. Also, a large number probably moved into feedlots during September. Summer-quarter net placements for the 23 States were probably 6 to 8 percent greater than the 6.2 million head placed a year earlier. Placements this fall are expected to continue at a high level and will probably be as large, if not a little larger, than the record 9.1 million head placed last fall.

Large reductions in nonfed steer and heifer and calf slaughter are helping sustain this high level of placements. So despite a 10-percent reduction in the supply of feeder cattle outside feedlots on July 1 of this year, placements can continue large. Second-half 1978 placements could rise about 4 percent above the 1977 level by placing 550,000 more head than a year earlier. On the other hand, nonfed steer and heifer and calf slaughter during the last 6 months of 1978 may be over 2 million head fewer than during July-December 1977. Therefore, a substantially smaller proportion of this year's feeder cattle is going directly to slaughter rather than spending time in a feedlot.

On-feed inventories, which support larger fed cattle marketings, continue to rise. The number on feed in the 7 major cattle feeding States was 16 percent greater than a year earlier on September 1 of this year. The October 1, 1978 inventory of cattle on feed in the 23 States may be 10 to 12 percent greater than a year ago.

On July 1, 1978, cattle feeders in the 23 States reported their intention to market about 6.6 million head of cattle during the July-September period. Fed cattle marketings probably met, and perhaps slightly exceeded, this level. This fall, fed cattle marketings are not expected to be as large as they were this summer, but they will probably exceed the year-earlier level by 5 to 7 percent.

Based on the recent level of placements, fed cattle marketings during the first quarter of 1979 will probably exceed the January-March 1978 record. And if cattle continue to move into feedlots this fall as expected, fed cattle marketings next spring will also surpass the year-earlier level.

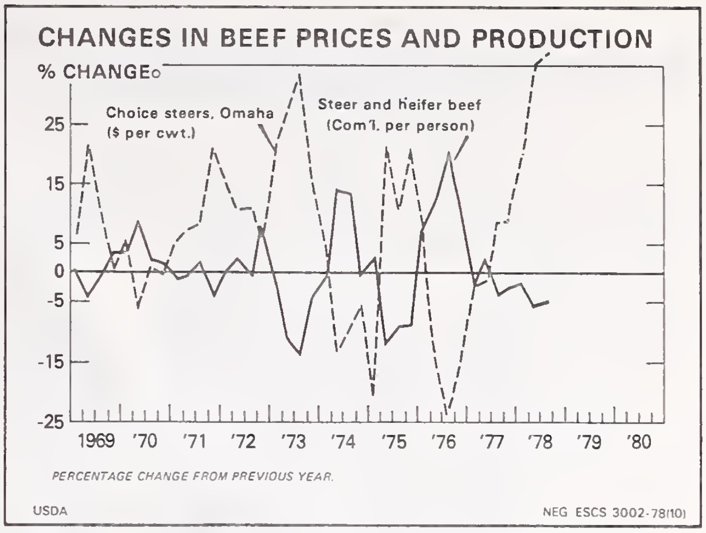
More Fed Beef and Less Nonfed Beef Ahead

The increased feeding activity is expected to keep fed beef supplies above year-earlier levels this fall and into early 1979. Average dressed weights have recently been increasing. Much of this is due to more fed cattle in the slaughter mix, but some of it may be the result of feeding to heavier weights. Low corn prices may cause feeders to add a little more weight to feedlot animals. If this happens, it will push fed beef production above year-earlier levels even more than that suggested by the increase in slaughter numbers.

Nonfed slaughter is dropping sharply below the level of a year ago and this will probably continue. The decline in nonfed beef production will more than offset the increase in fed beef production. Thus, total beef production will continue to decline, although the rate of decline will be less than that for total slaughter.

Fed cattle slaughter will account for almost 70 percent of total commercial cattle slaughter during 1978, up from about 62 percent last year. During 1979, it will probably account for an even larger share of the slaughter, perhaps 75 percent or more. And since slaughter weights are heavier for fed cattle, fed beef will account for an even larger percentage of total beef supplies.

Total beef production this fall is expected to be about 5 percent below that of a year ago. A less than normal seasonal increase in cow slaughter this fall will be a major contributor to this decline. This would result in commercial beef production of about 23.9 billion pounds for 1978, down about 4 percent from 1977.


CHANGES IN BEEF PRICES AND PRODUCTION

PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR.

USDA NEG ESCS 3002-78(10)

With a large number of fed cattle expected to move to slaughter in early 1979, total beef production will remain relatively high. First-quarter production may be only 2 to 4 percent below January-March 1978 production. But larger declines are expected for the spring when production may be down 4 to 6 percent. However, placements of cattle on feed this fall, and winter weather conditions, will greatly influence the level of production during first-half 1979.

Fed Cattle Prices To Remain Strong

In general, fed cattle prices are expected to remain strong, but some weakness may occur during early fall. Choice 900-1,100 pound steers at Omaha will probably average $53 to $55 per 100 pounds this fall. An expected large marketing of fed cattle early in the quarter may cause some weakness in the price, but if this happens prices will probably strengthen late in the quarter.

Some additional strength may occur this winter, but it will probably be late winter or early spring before much rise is seen in fed cattle prices. Choice steers at Omaha are expected to average in the mid-$50's during first-quarter 1979 and the mid- to upper-$50's during the spring.

However, fed cattle prices will be affected by consumer demand for beef and supplies of competing meats. Consumer incomes are expected to continue to rise through first-half 1979 and this would support a strong demand for beef.

This fall, pork production is expected to be near last fall's level and only small increases in pork production are expected during the first half of 1979. Winter weather conditions can greatly influence pork production, as has been the case the last 2 years.

Table 1—Beef supplies and prices

	Commercial cattle slaughter[1]						Average dressed weigh	Commercial production	Per capita consumption[2]	Prices			
	Steers and heifers			Cows	Bulls and stags	Total				Retail	Choice Feeders 600-700 lb. Kansas City	Choice Steers Omaha 900-1100 lb.	Farm[3]
	Fed	Non-fed	Total										
	1,000 head						*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cents/lb.*		*$ cwt.*	
1975: I	5,690	1,611	7,301	2,224	208	9,733	600	5,842	30.3	137.2	27.39	35.72	27.33
II	5,200	1,658	6,858	2,419	273	9,550	586	5,593	28.4	155.3	34.67	48.03	34.57
III	5,190	1,913	7,103	3,124	312	10,539	564	5,942	30.2	166.0	35.54	48.64	33.83
IV	5,130	1,865	6,995	3,790	304	11,089	568	6,296	31.2	160.9	38.06	46.05	33.07
Year	21,210	7,047	28,257	11,557	1,097	40,911	579	23,673	120.1	154.8	33.91	44.61	32.30
1976: I	6,550	1,375	7,925	2,748	240	10,913	595	6,492	32.8	151.3	39.19	38.71	33.37
II	6,150	1,429	7,579	2,330	261	10,170	604	6,145	31.2	150.8	43.89	41.42	37.17
III	6,430	1,605	8,035	2,612	262	10,909	607	6,618	33.5	145.3	38.10	37.30	32.97
IV	5,910	1,588	7,498	2,929	235	10,662	601	6,412	31.8	145.4	36.40	39.00	31.93
Year	25,040	5,997	31,037	10,619	998	42,654	602	25,667	129.3	148.2	39.40	39.11	33.70
1977: I	6,710	1,009	7,719	2,535	212	10,466	601	6,287	31.7	144.6	37.77	37.88	33.07
II	6,400	1,406	7,806	2,162	225	10,193	604	6,158	30.9	146.4	41.10	40.77	35.20
III	6,420	1,567	7,987	2,398	244	10,629	595	6,321	32.0	149.0	41.16	40.47	34.70
IV	6,360	1,217	7,577	2,769	222	10,568	588	6,220	31.3	153.4	40.70	42.42	34.97
Year	25,890	5,199	31,089	9,864	903	41,856	597	24,986	125.9	148.4	40.18	40.38	34.40
1978: I	7,050	654	7,704	2,316	184	10,204	598	6,104	30.5	162.7	47.89	45.77	40.30
II	6,865	648	7,513	2,148	211	9,872	601	5,936	29.8	185.7	58.28	55.06	49.63
III[4]	6,875	680	7,555	1,990	205	9,750	608	5,925	30.0	189.5	62.71	53.75	50.07
IV													
Year													

[1] Classes estimated. [2] Total, including farm production. [3] Annual is weighted average. [4] Forecast, except prices.

Poultry production has been rapidly increasing and substantial increases are anticipated for this fall and early 1979. Thus, there will be more competition for beef from poultry.

Feeder Cattle Supplies Down; Prices Up

The prospect for a large feed grain harvest this year is adding strength to feeder cattle prices. The large supply of grains at relatively low prices is enhancing the feedlot demand for feeder cattle and, combined with reduced feeder cattle supplies, prices have been rising.

The estimated July 1, 1978 supply of feeder cattle outside feedlots was 10 percent below a year earlier. Since the size of the calf crop is expected to be down again in 1979, feeder cattle supplies will continue to decline. Slaughter of nonfed steers and heifers and calves this year, however, is not subtracting from available feeder cattle supplies as much as a year ago.

The reduced feeder cattle supply, and the strong demand for them, is expected to sustain prices at relatively high levels. Even with the seasonal increase in the movement of calves to market this fall, little, if any, price weakness is anticipated. Choice yearling feeder steer prices will probably continue to sell in the mid-$60's per 100 pounds this fall. If grain supplies are as large as currently expected and grazing conditions are good next year, feeder cattle prices in first-half 1979 will probably rise above the fall level. Yearling steers would then probably be in the upper-$60's. Calves are selling at a premium to yearlings and this is likely to continue.

However, the fed cattle market will affect feeder cattle prices. Based on feeding cost estimates, yearling feeder cattle prices have already risen to a level that will not leave a profit for cattle feeders unless fed cattle prices rise more than now seems likely.

Calf Slaughter Dropping Sharply

On a weekly basis, calf slaughter during early September was running 25 to 30 percent below the year earlier. Calves are being bid away from packers and will end up in feedlots.

If the cattle market remains strong, as currently expected, and the grain crop is large, calf slaughter will continue to decline. This decline in calf slaughter is expected to continue through this fall and into 1979. During 1979, calf slaughter may decline to about half the 1978 level. If slaughter does decline this much, per capita veal consumption will drop to less than 2 pounds from an estimated average of about 3 pounds for 1978.

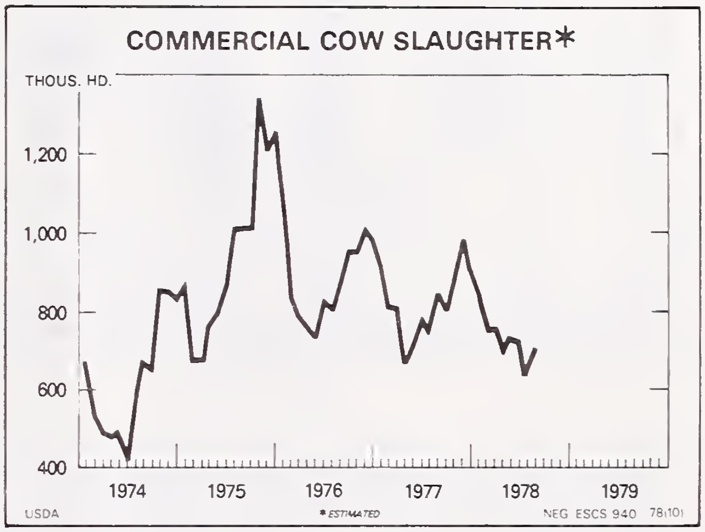
Federally inspected cattle slaughter

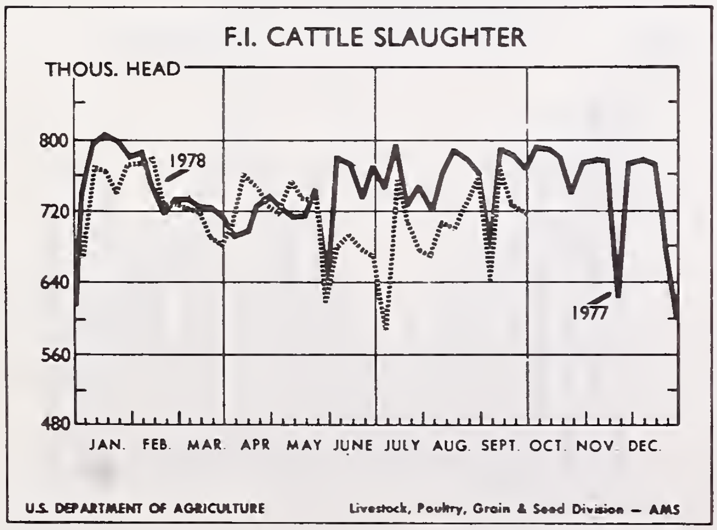
Week ended 1978[1]	Cattle		Steers		Cows	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
	Thousands					
Jan. 7	738	671	325	307	193	169
14	792	791	357	366	195	192
21	804	760	347	357	212	176
28	800	737	333	343	210	173
Feb. 4	783	774	353	363	189	181
11	789	765	356	366	195	171
18	751	777	332	375	186	173
25	719	727	329	343	173	171
Mar. 4	731	729	339	345	173	162
11	735	725	348	358	167	145
18	726	717	342	341	162	160
25	725	689	342	323	158	150
Apr. 1	714	683	354	324	144	146
Apr. 8	695	704	342	329	135	163
15	700	767	343	377	147	156
22	725	744	354	356	155	154
29	738	735	357	337	162	168
May 6	726	717	358	344	151	158
13	715	752	345	368	152	153
20	719	730	348	350	160	161
27	742	722	365	348	155	152
June 3	648	618	330	297	133	132
June 10	780	695	385	324	174	157
17	775	694	382	328	174	156
24	737	678	372	318	147	155
July 1	769	683	380	325	171	145
July 8	644	582	317	294	138	102
15	783	756	370	331	185	177
22	727	700	345	316	162	153
29	746	678	355	316	169	136
Aug. 5	722	672	349	295	160	145
12	760	709	368	332	160	143
19	787	694	366	323	181	139
26	781	724	358	336	182	143
Sept. 2	762	757	351	341	167	153
Sept. 9	687	648	318	291	147	128
16	791	770	343	343	187	153
23	783	720	341		186	
30	770	716	337		173	
Oct. 7	791		343		184	
14	791		339		199	
21	781		343		203	
28	738		315		190	
Nov. 4	774		328		210	
11	778		342		209	
18	776		334		227	
25	625		284		163	
Dec. 2	783		338		219	
Dec. 9	788		347		213	
16	782		348		211	
23	681		312		173	
30	603		284		142	

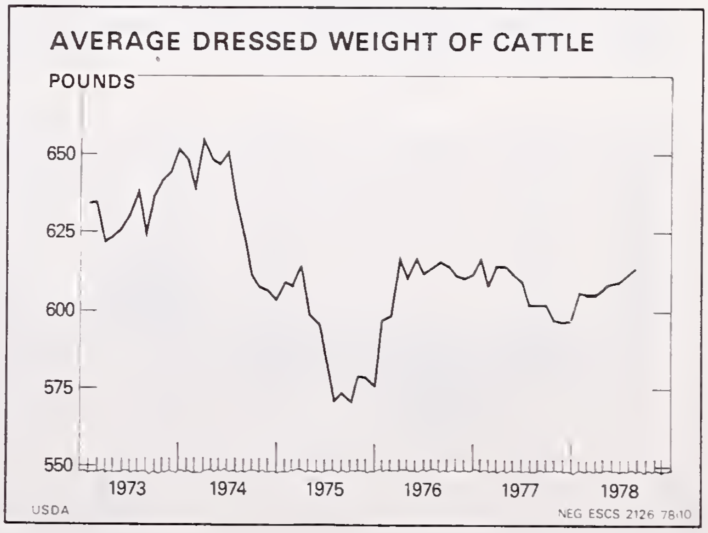
[1] Corresponding date: 1977, January 8.

Utility cow prices per 100 pounds, Omaha

Month	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
	Dollars					
January	26.67	31.45	16.82	23.26	22.95	27.59
February	31.43	32.65	18.18	25.90	23.88	30.34
March	33.90	31.76	19.45	27.45	26.67	32.44
April	33.59	30.50	21.67	30.72	27.63	36.94
May	34.26	27.67	23.55	30.24	26.57	39.21
June	33.09	26.39	23.32	27.47	25.64	37.61
July	34.22	24.22	22.00	25.80	25.23	38.09
August	37.56	24.54	21.29	25.10	25.38	37.85
September	34.58	22.56	22.45	22.90	26.12	39.75
October	33.68	19.68	22.01	22.72	24.89	
November	30.71	17.62	20.73	20.59	23.80	
December	30.14	17.67	21.64	21.60	25.02	
Average	32.82	25.56	21.09	25.31	25.32	







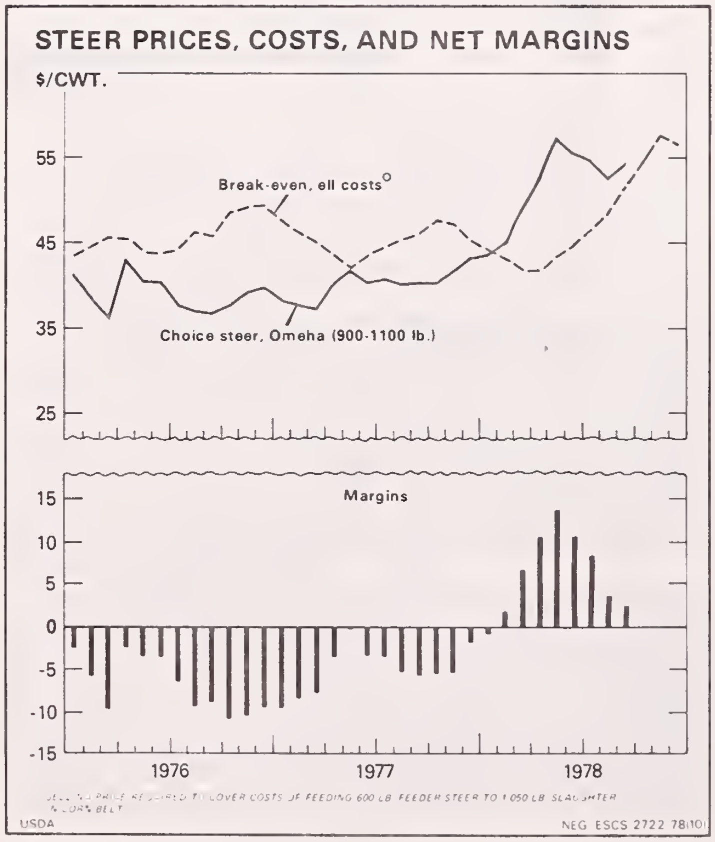
Steer prices, costs, and net margins[1]

Year	Steers Omaha	Feed & Feeder	Break-even	Net margin
	$ per cwt.			
1976				
Jan.	41.18	37.83	43.50	-2.32
Feb.	38.80	39.05	44.67	-5.87
Mar.	36.14	40.04	45.79	-9.65
Apr.	43.12	39.39	45.30	-2.18
May	40.62	38.15	44.01	-3.39
June	40.52	38.12	43.98	-3.46
July	37.92	38.34	44.17	-6.25
Aug.	37.02	40.40	46.40	-9.38
Sept.	36.97	39.94	45.94	-8.97
Oct.	37.88	42.53	48.68	-10.80
Nov.	39.15	43.28	49.42	-10.27
Dec.	39.96	43.37	49.49	-9.53
1977				
Jan.	38.38	40.85	47.82	-9.44
Feb.	37.98	40.46	46.35	-8.37
Mar.	37.28	39.25	45.06	-7.78
Apr.	40.08	37.86	43.66	-3.58
May	41.98	36.24	42.07	-0.09
June	40.24	37.73	43.58	-3.34
July	40.94	38.50	44.41	-3.47
Aug.	40.11	39.28	45.31	-5.20
Sept.	40.35	40.01	46.10	-5.75
Oct.	42.29	41.46	47.65	-5.36
Nov.	41.83	40.77	47.04	-5.21
Dec.	43.13	38.88	45.09	-1.96
1978				
Jan.	43.62	38.04	44.27	-0.65
Feb.	45.02	36.92	43.12	+1.90
Mar.	48.66	35.76	41.92	+6.74
Apr.	52.52	35.80	41.95	+10.57
May	57.28	37.34	43.54	+13.74
June	55.38	38.57	44.82	+10.56
July	54.59	40.01	46.42	+8.17
Aug.	52.40	42.03	48.70	+3.70
Sept.	54.26	45.20	52.04	+2.22
Oct.		47.74	54.71	
Nov.		50.83	57.91	
Dec.		49.63	56.66	
1979				
Jan.		49.92	57.02	
Feb.		50.59	57.76	
Mar.		50.97	58.20	

[1] Selling price required to cover costs of feeding 600 lb. feeder steer to 1,050 lb. slaughter in Corn Belt.

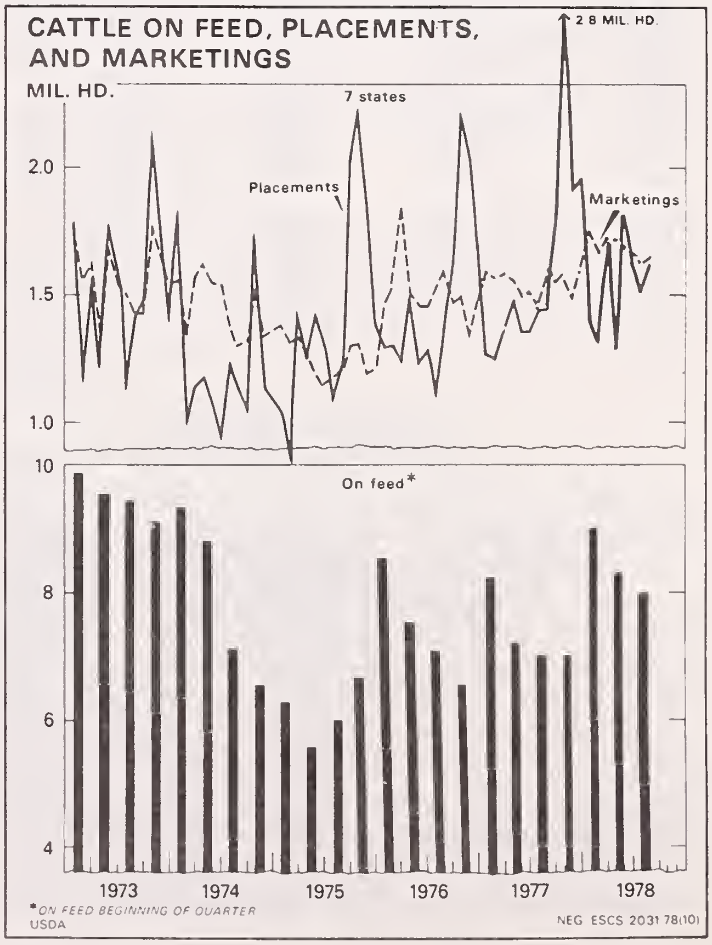
7 States Cattle on Feed, Placements, and Marketings

Year	On feed	Change, previous year	Net placements	Change, previous year	Marketings	Change, previous year
	1,000 head	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
1975						
Oct.	6,656	+1.3	2,233	+28.3	1,307	-13.8
Nov.	7,582	+11.6	1,864	+59.6	1,190	-11.1
Dec.	8,256	+24.6	1,483	+35.9	1,202	-10.8
1976						
Jan.	8,537	+34.0	1,282	+21.7	1,462	+6.6
Feb.	8,357	+38.1	1,293	+73.1	1,529	+16.2
Mar.	8,121	+48.2	1,248	-13.8	1,841	+38.3
Apr.	7,528	+34.5	1,497	+18.2	1,512	+18.6
May	7,513	+34.4	1,226	-13.9	1,470	+25.4
June	7,269	+24.4	1,278	-2.7	1,468	+27.9
July	7,079	+17.7	1,113	+2.1	1,521	+30.7
Aug.	6,671	+12.5	1,356	+10.2	1,589	+31.0
Sept.	6,438	+8.2	1,618	-19.3	1,478	+13.9
Oct.	6,578	-1.2	2,215	-0.8	1,491	+14.1
Nov.	7,302	-3.7	2,031	+9.0	1,333	+12.0
Dec.	8,000	-3.1	1,686	+13.7	1,473	+22.5
1977						
Jan.	8,213	-3.8	1,262	-1.6	1,602	+9.6
Feb.	7,873	-5.8	1,250	-3.3	1,567	+2.5
Mar.	7,556	-7.0	1,435	+15.0	1,710	-7.1
Apr.	7,281	-3.3	1,470	-1.8	1,554	+2.8
May	7,197	-4.2	1,335	+8.9	1,479	+0.6
June	7,053	-3.0	1,367	+7.0	1,546	+5.3
July	6,874	-2.9	1,439	+29.3	1,442	-5.2
Aug.	6,871	+3.0	1,453	+7.2	1,598	+0.6
Sept.	6,726	+4.5	1,762	+8.9	1,530	+3.5
Oct.	6,958	+5.7	2,771	+25.1	1,589	+6.6
Nov.	8,140	+11.5	1,925	-5.7	1,498	+12.4
Dec.	8,567	+7.1	1,965	+16.5	1,605	+9.0
1978						
Jan.	8,927	+8.7	1,427	+13.1	1,740	+8.6
Feb.	8,614	+9.4	1,328	+6.2	1,666	+6.3
Mar.	8,276	+9.5	1,684	+17.4	1,698	-0.7
Apr.	8,262	+13.5	1,294	-12.0	1,695	+9.1
May	7,861	+9.2	1,829	+37.0	1,677	+13.4
June	8,013	+13.6	1,616	+18.2	1,647	+6.5
July	7,982	+16.1	1,509	+4.9	1,624	+12.6
Aug.	7,867	+14.5	1,621	+11.6	1,653	+3.4
Sept.	7,835	+16.5				


STEER PRICES, COSTS, AND NET MARGINS

°SELLING PRICE REQUIRED TO COVER COSTS OF FEEDING 600 LB FEEDER STEER TO 1,050 LB SLAUGHTER IN CORN BELT

USDA NEG ESCS 2722 78(10)


CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, AND MARKETINGS

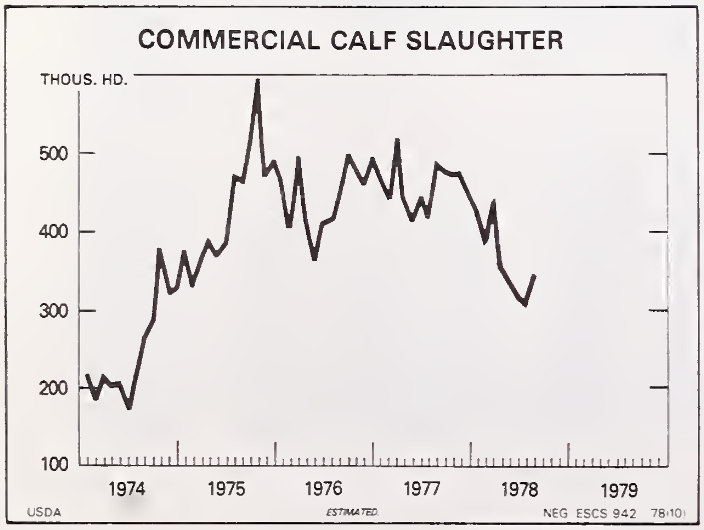
*ON FEED BEGINNING OF QUARTER

USDA NEG ESCS 2031 78(10)

Veal supplies and prices

	Commercial			Per capita[1]	Prices		
	Slaughter	Av. dr. wt.	Production		Retail	Choice vealers So. St. Paul	Farm
	1,000 head	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cents per lb.*	*$/cwt.*	*$/cwt.*
1973							
I	685	140	96	.5	169.4	63.00	53.63
II	489	155	76	.4	181.0	63.43	58.00
III	475	154	73	.4	186.8	67.68	62.87
IV	600	133	80	.5	189.5	62.21	53.53
Year	2,249	145	325	1.8	181.7	64.08	56.60
1974							
I	614	135	83	.5	197.3	63.17	52.33
II	585	144	84	.4	193.9	54.38	42.50
III	762	159	121	.6	194.4	43.96	33.47
IV	1,026	150	154	.8	190.7	37.02	26.13
Year	2,987	148	442	2.3	194.1	49.63	35.20
1975							
I	1,068	155	166	.9	183.4	38.68	24.40
II	1,137	160	182	.9	182.1	42.18	28.37
III	1,449	160	232	1.2	182.1	37.56	26.67
IV	1,555	159	247	1.2	177.0	43.33	28.30
Year	5,209	159	827	4.2	181.1	40.44	27.20
1976							
I	1,370	150	206	1.0	173.8	50.84	33.13
II	1,195	149	178	.9	174.3	44.01	38.23
III	1,349	152	205	1.0	174.9	38.62	34.00
IV	1,436	156	224	1.1	170.1	47.24	32.63
Year	5,350	152	813	4.0	173.3	45.18	34.10
1977							
I	1,438	140	201	1.0	177.7	53.42	35.23
II	1,304	143	187	.9	178.9	53.13	37.47
III	1,380	149	205	1.0	181.1	44.90	37.17
IV	1,395	144	201	1.0	183.3	41.33	37.17
Year	5,517	144	794	3.9	180.3	48.19	36.90
1978							
I	1,251	142	178	.9	179.9	43.95	44.80
II	1,006	148	149	.7	195.9	73.33	56.73
III[3]	970	144	140	.7	225.0	80.21	62.33
IV							
Year							

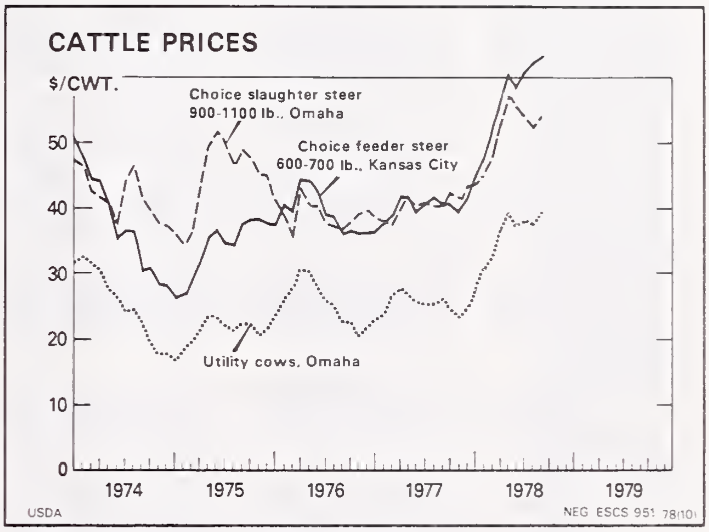
[1] Total, including farm production. [2] Annual is weighted average. [3] Forecast.



Feeder cattle prices per 100 pounds, Kansas City

Month	Choice feeder steers 600-700 lbs.			Choice feeder steer calves[1]		
	1976	1977	1978	1976	1977	1978
	Dollars					
Jan.	37.46	36.49	44.07	37.47	37.99	46.15
Feb.	40.42	37.86	47.60	41.40	41.69	51.78
Mar.	39.69	38.95	52.00	44.01	44.36	57.64
Apr.	44.62	41.69	55.08	47.01	45.72	61.10
May	44.21	41.72	60.36	47.58	45.20	68.17
June	42.83	39.90	58.56	44.81	42.46	67.00
July	39.18	40.64	60.60	40.64	43.14	68.42
Aug.	38.94	41.99	63.08	41.13	45.27	71.61
Sept.	36.18	40.85	64.46	38.18	46.06	74.51
Oct.	36.72	40.82		39.81	44.48	
Nov.	36.26	39.94		38.46	42.95	
Dec.	36.23	41.33		38.22	43.84	
Av.	39.40	40.18		41.56	43.60	

[1] 400-500 lbs.



Choice steer prices per 100 pounds, Omaha[1]

Month	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
	Dollars					
January	40.65	47.14	36.34	41.18	38.38	43.62
February	43.54	46.38	34.74	38.80	37.98	45.02
March	45.65	42.85	36.08	36.14	37.28	48.66
April	45.03	41.53	42.80	43.12	40.08	52.52
May	45.74	40.52	49.48	40.62	41.98	57.28
June	46.76	37.98	51.82	40.52	40.24	55.38
July	47.66	43.72	50.21	37.92	40.94	54.59
August	52.94	46.62	46.80	37.02	40.11	52.40
September	45.12	41.38	48.91	36.97	40.35	54.26
October	41.92	39.64	47.90	37.88	42.29	
November	40.14	37.72	45.23	39.15	41.83	
December	39.36	37.20	45.01	39.96	43.13	
Average	44.54	41.89	44.61	39.11	40.38	

[1] 900-1,100 lb.

Table 2—Corn Belt cattle feeding

Selected expenses at current rates[1]

Purchased during Marketed during	June 77 Dec. 77	July Jan. 78	Aug. Feb.	Sept. Mar.	Oct. Apr.	Nov. May	Dec. June	Jan. 78 July	Feb. Aug.	Mar. Sept.	Apr. Oct.	May Nov.	June Dec.	July Jan. 79	Aug. Feb.	Sept. Mar.
								Dollars per head								
Expenses:																
600 lb. feeder steer	239.40	243.84	251.94	245.10	244.92	239.64	247.98	264.42	285.60	312.00	330.48	362.16	351.36	363.60	378.48	386.76
Transportation to feedlot (400 miles)	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28
Corn (45 bu.)	94.50	86.40	72.90	70.20	71.10	87.30	89.55	88.20	88.65	94.95	101.70	102.60	101.70	94.05	88.20	83.70
Silage (1.7 tons)	32.71	30.97	27.30	26.16	26.20	29.60	30.74	30.97	31.47	31.40	32.25	32.64	31.55	30.38	29.00	28.58
Protein supplement (270 lb.)	31.05	27.81	25.92	24.84	24.57	26.19	26.86	26.32	25.11	26.60	27.54	26.86	27.68	27.14	26.73	27.00
Hay (400 lb.)	10.60	10.45	9.65	9.20	9.10	9.35	9.85	10.20	10.50	9.60	9.30	9.45	8.80	9.00	8.80	9.10
Labor (4 hours)	10.72	10.72	10.32	10.32	10.32	10.80	10.80	10.80	11.68	11.68	11.68	11.08	11.08	11.08	11.00	11.00
Management[2]	5.36	5.36	5.16	5.16	5.16	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.84	5.84	5.84	5.54	5.54	5.54	5.50	5.50
Vet medicine[3]	3.25	3.24	3.22	3.22	3.21	3.23	3.24	3.34	3.37	3.42	3.45	3.50	3.51	3.52	3.52	3.55
Interest on purchase (6 mo.)	10.77	10.97	11.34	11.03	11.02	10.78	11.16	11.90	12.85	14.04	14.87	16.30	15.81	16.36	17.03	17.40
Power, equip, fuel, shelter, depreciation[3]	15.17	15.12	15.04	15.02	14.99	15.06	15.10	15.56	15.72	15.94	16.11	16.31	16.37	16.40	16.42	16.57
Death loss (1% of purchase)	2.39	2.44	2.52	2.45	2.45	2.40	2.48	2.64	2.86	3.12	3.30	3.62	3.51	3.64	3.78	3.87
Transportation (100 miles)	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31
Marketing expenses	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
Miscellaneous & indirect costs[3]	6.56	6.54	6.50	6.49	6.48	6.51	6.53	6.73	6.80	6.89	6.97	7.05	7.08	7.09	7.10	7.17
Total	473.42	464.80	452.75	440.13	440.46	457.20	470.63	487.42	511.39	546.42	574.43	608.05	594.93	598.74	606.50	611.14
								Dollars per cwt.								
Selling price/cwt. required to cover feed and feeder costs (1050 lb.)	38.88	38.04	36.92	35.76	35.80	37.34	38.57	40.01	42.03	45.20	47.74	50.83	49.63	49.92	50.59	50.97
Selling price/cwt. required to cover all costs (1050 lb.)	45.09	44.27	43.12	41.92	41.95	43.54	44.82	46.42	48.70	52.04	54.71	57.91	56.66	57.02	57.76	58.20
Feed cost per 100 lb. gain	37.52	34.58	30.17	28.98	29.10	33.88	34.89	34.60	34.61	36.12	37.93	38.12	37.71	35.68	33.94	32.97
Choice steers, Omaha	43.13	43.62	45.02	48.66	52.52	57.28	55.38	54.59	52.40	54.26						
Net margin/cwt.	-1.96	-0.65	+1.90	+6.74	+10.57	+13.74	+10.56	+8.17	+3.70	+2.22						
Prices																
Feeder steer Choice (600-700 lb.) Kansas City/cwt.)	39.90	40.64	41.99	40.85	40.82	39.94	41.33	44.07	47.60	52.00	55.08	60.36	58.56	60.60	63.08	64.46
Corn/bu.[4]	2.10	1.92	1.62	1.56	1.58	1.94	1.99	1.96	1.97	2.11	2.26	2.28	2.26	2.09	1.96	1.86
Hay/ton[4]	53.00	52.25	48.25	46.00	45.50	46.75	49.25	51.00	52.50	48.00	46.50	47.25	44.00	45.00	44.00	45.50
Corn silage/ton[5]	19.24	18.22	16.06	15.39	15.41	17.41	18.08	18.22	18.51	18.47	18.97	19.20	18.56	17.87	17.06	16.81
32-36% Protein supp./cwt.[6]	11.50	10.30	9.60	9.20	9.10	9.70	9.95	9.75	9.30	9.85	10.20	9.95	10.25	10.05	9.90	10.00
Farm Labor/hour[6]	2.68	2.68	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.92	2.92	2.92	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.75	2.75
Interest annual rate	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Transportation rate/cwt. 100 mile	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Marketing expenses[8]	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100)	692	690	686	685	684	687	689	710	717	727	735	744	747	748	749	756

[1] Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed ration and expense items do not necessarily coincide with experience of individual feeders. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level and locality of operation. [2] Assumes one hour at twice the labor rate. [3] Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes and wage rates. [4] Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [5] Corn silage price derived from an equivalent price of 5 bushels corn and 330 lb. hay. [6] Average price paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [7] Converted from cents/mile for a 44,000 pound haul. [8] Yardage plus commission fees at a midwest terminal market.

Table 3—Great Plains Custom cattle feeding[1]

Purchased during Marketed during	June 77 Dec. 77	July Jan. 78	Aug. Feb.	Sept. Mar.	Oct. Apr.	Nov. May	Dec. June	Jan. 78 July	Feb. Aug.	Mar. Sept.	Apr. Oct.	May Nov.	June Dec.	July Jan. 79	Aug. Feb.	Sept. Mar.
	Dollars per head															
Expenses:																
600 lb. feeder steer	230.34	232.26	232.50	234.60	232.68	238.08	250.98	265.32	287.46	315.12	325.98	355.68	342.18	358.02	359.52	381.00
Transportation to feedlot (300 mi)	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96
Commission	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Feed:																
milo (1,500 lb.)	51.90	51.90	48.00	49.35	52.95	55.80	56.25	55.80	57.60	63.15	64.65	64.80	63.75	62.55	59.10	58.65
corn (1,500 lb.)	58.35	56.55	52.20	53.25	56.55	62.25	62.55	62.70	63.75	70.50	65.55	72.75	71.85	67.65	66.75	63.75
cottonseed meal (400 lb.)	48.80	47.60	43.60	38.80	34.80	36.40	38.80	39.20	39.20	39.60	38.80	38.40	37.60	39.60	36.80	38.40
alfalfa hay (800 lb.)	37.20	38.00	38.20	38.40	37.40	38.60	39.80	40.00	39.40	39.00	39.00	38.40	37.60	37.20	38.40	39.00
Total feed cost	196.25	194.05	182.00	179.80	181.70	193.05	197.40	197.70	199.95	212.25	208.00	214.35	210.80	207.00	201.05	199.80
Feed handling & management charge	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
Vet medicine	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Interest on feeder & ½ feed	15.19	15.22	14.96	15.01	15.77	16.31	17.05	17.75	19.37	21.06	21.50	23.15	22.38	23.08	23.00	24.04
Death loss (1.5% of purchase))	3.46	3.48	3.49	3.51	3.49	3.57	3.76	3.98	4.31	4.73	4.89	5.34	5.13	5.37	5.39	5.72
Marketing[2]	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.
Total	476.20	475.97	463.91	463.88	464.60	481.97	500.15	515.71	542.05	584.12	591.33	629.48	611.45	624.43	619.92	641.52
	Dollars per cwt.															
Selling price required to cover:[3]																
Feed and feeder cost (1,056 lb.)	40.40	40.37	39.25	39.24	39.24	40.83	42.46	43.85	45.02	49.94	50.57	53.98	52.37	53.51	53.08	55.00
All costs	45.09	45.07	43.93	43.93	44.00	45.64	47.36	48.84	51.33	55.31	56.00	59.61	57.90	59.13	58.70	60.75
Selling price $/cwt.[4]	43.69	43.72	44.75	49.21	53.10	58.23	55.94	54.48	51.96	54.19						
Net margin/cwt.	-1.40	-1.35	+0.82	+5.28	+9.10	+12.59	+8.58	+5.64	+0.63	-1.12						
Costs per 100 lb. gain:																
Variable costs less interest	44.74	44.31	41.90	41.46	41.84	44.12	45.03	45.14	45.65	48.20	47.38	48.74	47.99	47.27	46.09	45.90
Feed costs	39.25	38.81	36.40	35.96	36.34	38.61	39.48	39.54	39.99	42.45	41.60	42.87	42.16	41.40	40.21	39.96
Unit Prices:																
Choice feeder steer 600-700 lb. Amarillo $/cwt.	38.39	38.71	38.75	39.10	38.78	39.68	41.83	44.22	47.91	52.52	54.33	59.28	57.03	59.67	59.92	63.50
Transportation rate $/cwt/100 miles[5]	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Commission fee $/cwt.	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
Milo $/cwt.[6]	3.46	3.46	3.20	3.29	3.53	3.72	3.75	3.72	3.84	4.21	4.31	4.32	4.25	4.17	3.94	3.91
Corn $/cwt.[6]	3.89	3.77	3.48	3.55	3.77	4.15	4.17	4.18	4.25	4.70	4.37	4.85	4.79	4.51	4.45	4.25
Cottonseed meal $/cwt.[7]	12.20	11.90	10.90	9.70	8.70	9.10	9.70	9.80	9.80	9.90	9.70	9.60	9.40	9.90	9.20	9.60
Alfalfa hay $/ton[8]	93.00	95.00	95.50	96.00	93.50	96.50	99.50	100.00	98.50	97.50	97.50	96.00	94.00	93.00	96.00	97.50
Feed handling & management charge $/ton	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Interest, annual rate	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.75	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

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[1] Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed ration and expense items do not necessarily coincide with experience of individual feedlots. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level, and locality of operation. Steers are assumed to gain 500 lb in 180 days at 2.8 lb. per day with a feed conversion of 8.4 lb. per pound gain. [2] Most cattle sold F.O.B. the feedlot with 4 percent shrink. [3] Sale weight 1,056 pounds (1,100 pounds less 4 percent shrink) [4] Choice slaughter steers, 900-1,100 lb., Texas-New Mexico direct. [5] Converted from cents per mile for a 44,000 pound haul. [6] Texas Panhandle elevator price plus $.15/cwt. handling and transportation to feed lots. [7] Average prices paid by farmers in Texas. [8] Average prices received by farmers in Texas plus $30/ton handling and transportation to feedlots.

HOGS

Although hog producers have seen favorable hog-feed price relationships, they are not planning any major expansion in production. The September 1 Hogs and Pigs report showed that the number of hogs kept for breeding in 14 States was only 3 percent greater than last year. Farrowing intentions for both the September-November and December-February quarters showed a 3-percent increase over last year. Thus, pork producers seem to be very cautious and conservative in their expansion plans.

The hog-corn price ratio has often been used as a measure of the profitability of producing hogs. This ratio, based upon Omaha prices, has been above 20 to 1 since November 1977. Ratios above 20 to 1 are usually considered profitable and are normally expected to lead to expansion in the pork sector. However, expansion has been slower than most analysts anticipated.

Small litter sizes, conception problems, and high death losses have been encountered by producers. These problems may have prevented some producers from expanding their breeding herds as much as they had earlier planned.

Concern over curing agents and preservatives used in pork products has added additional uncertainty to pork production. Many of today's production units require large capital investments and pork producers may be wary about making such an investment given the cloud of uncertainty hanging over the pork industry.

Fourth-Quarter Production Near Year Ago

The 14 State September 1 inventory of market hogs in the 60-179 pound weight classes was 1 percent below last year. These hogs will be marketed mainly in the fall quarter of 1978. Slaughter in the fall quarter could total near 20 million head. Although that would be slightly lower than last year, producers may feed hogs to heavier weights because of lower feed grain prices. Thus, production in the fourth quarter could be close to last year's 3.5 billion pounds. Barrows and gilts will likely average in the upper-$40's, with prices reaching the low-$50's at times, due to tight supplies of competing beef.

For the year, commercial slaughter and pork production will not be very different from year-ago levels. Commercial slaughter could be near 79 million head and production may be about 13.2 billion pounds. In 1977, slaughter totaled 77.3 million head and pork production was almost 13.1 billion pounds.

Barrows and gilts are expected to average about $48 per hundredweight in 1978, nearly $4 above the average price in 1977. Much of this price increase can be attributed to strong consumer demand for meat and smaller beef supplies.

No Expansion in Winter-Quarter Production

The June 1 Hogs and Pigs report indicated that June-August farrowing intentions were 3 percent above last year's farrowings. However, the reported farrowings as of September 1 were virtually unchanged from the summer quarter last year. The expected increase in sows farrowing may not have materialized because of conception and disease problems last winter and early spring. The litter size for this quarter was also down slightly from a year ago. The smaller litter size may be partially the result of a large number of first-litter gilts in the breeding inventory. This resulted in a pig crop that was 1 percent smaller than last year.

The September 1 inventory of market hogs under 60 pounds was down 2 percent from a year ago. Most of these pigs came from the smaller June-August pig crop. These pigs will make up the majority of first-quarter 1979 slaughter. Judging by these inventory numbers, total hog slaughter for the first quarter of 1979 could be near the corresponding quarter of 1978.

Dressed weights averaged only 167 pounds in the first quarter of 1978; higher dressed weights for the first quarter of 1979 could push production slightly above year-ago levels. A milder winter could result in better rates of gain and fewer deaths which could boost January-March slaughter above year-ago levels. However, another severe winter could hold production down again.

Even if winter 1979 pork production is slightly larger than the winter 1978 level, red meat supplies will still be less than a year earlier. Beef production is expected to be down 2 to 4 percent, veal production may be down 50 percent, and lamb and mutton may be unchanged from a year earlier. However, broiler production is likely to be up 10 percent from the first quarter of 1978, so the total meat supply could be slightly above a year earlier. Prices for hogs are likely to be near $50 per hundredweight for the winter of 1979.

Slow Expansion in Production Indicated for Spring

Farrowing intentions for September-November are 3 percent above last year. The majority of this pig crop will be marketed from April to June 1979, so the second-quarter slaughter could be up by a similar percentage. However, a mild winter could result in slaughter increasing by more than 3 percent. Rates of gain might be greater in a milder winter, enabling more hogs to reach market weight during the second quarter. Fewer deaths would also increase slaughter numbers.

Table 4—Pork supplies and prices

Year	Estimated commercial slaughter[1]				Average dressed weight	Commercial production	Per capita consumption[2]	Prices		
	Barrows and gilts	Sows	Boars	Total				Retail	Barrows and gilts 7 markets[3]	Farm
	1,000 head				*Lb.*	*Mil lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cents per lb.*	*$/cwt.*	
1974: I ...	18,887	1,075	187	20,149	173	3,481	17.2	114.8	38.40	38.13
II ...	19,659	1,174	181	21,014	175	3,670	17.8	98.9	28.00	27.03
III ...	17,699	1,802	204	19,705	172	3,381	16.8	107.0	36.59	34.63
IV ...	19,124	1,588	182	20,894	171	3,568	17.3	110.6	39.06	37.43
Year	75,369	5,639	754	81,762	172	14,100	69.1	107.8	35.12	34.31
1975: I ...	17,711	886	162	18,759	167	3,142	15.5	114.1	39.35	38.43
II ...	16,704	939	165	17,808	168	2,992	14.4	122.7	46.11	43.93
III ...	14,151	1,003	153	15,307	167	2,555	12.5	148.8	58.83	56.20
IV ...	15,659	982	172	16,813	172	2,896	13.7	152.9	52.20	51.67
Year	64,225	3,810	652	68,687	169	11,585	56.1	134.6	48.32	47.56
1976: I ...	16,605	694	132	17,431	170	2,958	14.4	141.2	47.99	47.10
II ...	15,962	718	141	16,821	169	2,847	13.5	138.2	49.19	47.93
III ...	16,872	964	147	17,983	168	3,014	14.4	137.1	43.88	43.30
IV ...	20,215	1,184	150	21,549	170	3,669	17.2	119.6	34.25	33.47
Year	69,654	3,560	570	73,784	169	12,488	59.5	134.0	43.11	42.95
1977: I ...	18,522	1,031	217	19,770	167	3,294	15.6	120.5	39.08	38.23
II ...	17,582	950	211	18,743	170	3,184	14.9	121.7	40.87	39.57
III ...	17,002	1,086	205	18,293	168	3,073	14.7	131.0	43.85	42.63
IV ...	19,139	1,167	191	20,497	171	3,500	16.3	128.2	41.38	39.73
Year	72,245	4,234	824	77,303	169	13,051	61.5	125.4	41.07	40.04
1978: I ...	18,193	1,011	194	19,398	167	3,242	15.3	137.0	47.44	46.20
II ...	17,936	905	196	19,037	171	3,264	15.0	142.4	47.84	46.77
III[4] ...	17,350	1,015	180	18,545	170	3,150	14.9	144.3	48.20	46.77
IV ...										
Year										

[1] Classes estimated. [2] Total, including farm production. [3] Annual average weighted. [4] Forecast;

Pork production for the second quarter is expected to be 3 to 5 percent greater than a year earlier and about 4 percent greater than the first quarter. Total red meat production would still be about 3 percent below the second quarter of 1978. Prices for barrows and gilts are expected to remain strong and could average near $50 per hundredweight in the spring.

Second Half of 1979 May See Greater Expansion

Producers responding to the September 1 survey indicated that they plan only a 3-percent increase in sows farrowing for the December-February quarter. This expansion seems modest given current hog prices and the prospects for a record-large corn crop.

The farrowing intentions for Iowa and Illinois seem particularly modest. These two States are the largest hog producers and also the largest corn producers. In spite of a record corn crop, no expansion in farrowings was indicated for these States. Farrowing intentions in Iowa were no greater than a year ago, and farrowing intentions in Illinois were 5 percent below a year ago. Actual farrowings for these two States may be above intentions.

Most of the December-February pig crop will be marketed in the third quarter of 1979. Although the September 1 farrowing intentions were 3 percent greater than a year ago, it is possible that a significantly larger pig crop could be produced if the winter weather is not as severe as last year's and if disease and death loss problems are reduced.

For the years 1970-1975, litter size averaged 7.13 pigs for the December-February pig crop. However, the number of pigs per litter for winter 1977 was 6.76; the litter size in winter of 1978 was 6.84 pigs.

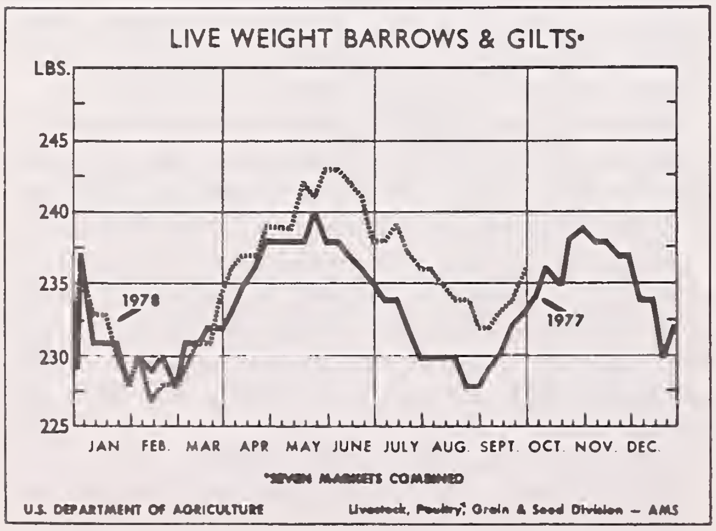
High death losses for pigs of weaning age or older also limited the number of hogs slaughtered from these pig crops. The death loss for the winter 1978 pig crop was reported to be 20 percent higher than the death loss for the winter 1977 pig crop; death loss for the winter 1977 pig crop was 20 percent higher than the previous year.

Death losses averaged 4.2 percent of the number of pigs on farms from 1970-1975 (the number of pigs on farms was calculated by adding the spring and fall pig crops to the beginning inventory). The average death loss for the total number may be lower than the death loss for pigs of weaning age. Using the 4.2-percent average as a normal death loss, the death loss for the 1978 winter pig crop could have been 6.1 percent of the pigs saved. This considerably reduced the number of hogs marketed from the winter pig crop.

If these problems are overcome for the winter 1979 pig crop, it is possible to achieve a greater increase in third-quarter 1979 slaughter than is indicated by the 3-percent increase in farrowing intentions. Assuming that the planned 3-percent increase in farrowings is realized, a winter pig crop of approximately 16.8 million head would be produced if 7.13 pigs per litter were saved. If the litter size averaged 6.84 pigs per litter as it did last year, the winter pig crop would be approximately 16.1 million head, a difference of nearly 700,000 head.

A pig crop of 16.8 million head would be about 7 percent greater than last year's 14 State pig crop. If death losses were also reduced, the supply of market hogs from the December-February pig crop could be 8-9 percent greater than the previous year. Another severe winter, however, could limit the increase in hog slaughter to about 3 percent above the summer of 1978.

Prices during the next 2-3 months will influence producers' farrowing plans for the March-May pig crop. It is likely that producers will be seeing hog prices near $50 per hundredweight. The U.S. mid-September corn price at the farm was $1.92 per bushel, and some seasonal easing is likely during harvest. With these prices, the hog-corn price ratio would be above 27 to 1, suggesting further expansion of pork production for the fourth quarter of 1979.



Feeder pig prices consistent with break-even all costs, given corn and market hog prices[1]

Corn (Farm price)	Market hogs, $/cwt.					
	35	40	45	50	55	60
$bu.	*Feeder pigs, $ per hd.*					
1.75	23	34	45	56	67	78
2.00	20	31	42	53	64	75
2.25	17	28	39	50	61	72
2.50	14	25	36	47	58	69
2.75	12	23	34	45	56	67
3.00	9	20	31	42	53	64
3.25	6	17	28	39	50	61
3.50	3	14	25	36	47	58

[1] Assuming protein and other costs at August 1978 levels. Includes $4.75 in fixed costs. (See hog feeding table).

Spring pig crop and hog slaughter

	Dec.-May[1] pig crop	July-Dec. Commercial slaughter	Percent of pig crop slaughtered
	Thou. head	*Thou. head*	*Percent*
1964	47,682	41,043	86.1
1965	42,526	35,416	83.3
1966	45,471	39,013	85.8
1967	48,117	41,566	86.4
1968	49,077	43,327	88.3
1969	46,521	41,186	88.5
1970	52,126	45,890	88.0
1971	51,918	46,573	89.7
1972	47,523	41,057	86.4
1973	46,125	37,093	80.4
1974	44,792	40,599	90.6
1975	35,530	32,120	90.4
1976	42,177	39,532	93.7
1977	42,959	38,790	90.3
1978	42,343	[2] 38,750	93.5

[1] December, previous year. [2] Forecast.

Fall pig crop and hog slaughter

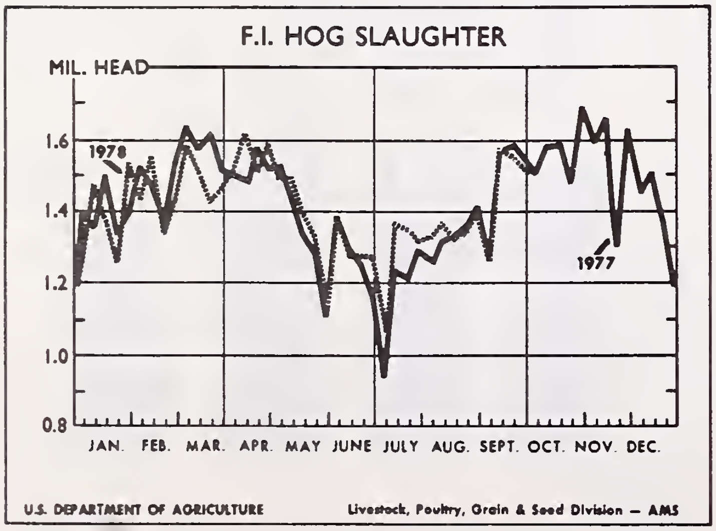
	June-Nov. pig crop	Jan.-June Commercial slaughter	Percent of pig crop slaughtered
	Thou. head	*Thou. head*	*Percent*
1963/64	43,307	41,975	96.9
1964/65	39,862	38,368	96.3
1965/66	36,415	34,998	96.1
1966/67	42,132	40,558	96.3
1967/68	43,551	41,833	96.1
1968/69	45,078	42,653	94.6
1969/70	42,155	39,927	94.7
1970/71	49,588	47,865	96.5
1971/72	46,006	43,650	94.9
1972/73	43,051	39,702	92.2
1973/74	41,998	41,163	98.0
1974/75	38,952	36,568	93.9
1975/76	35,656	34,252	96.1
1976/77	42,218	38,513	91.2
1977/78	43,232	38,435	88.9

[1] Preliminary.

Federally inspected hog slaughter

Week ended 1978[1]	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
	Thousands				
Jan. 7	1,566	1,588	1,407	1,399	1,247
14	1,577	1,432	1,326	1,357	1,473
21	1,598	1,385	1,227	1,495	1,376
28	1,328	1,450	1,203	1,344	1,261
Feb. 4	1,185	1,424	1,208	1,388	1,527
11	1,541	1,419	1,234	1,520	1,437
18	1,403	1,340	1,168	1,470	1,551
25	1,564	1,352	1,255	1,379	1,348
Mar. 4	1,554	1,453	1,273	1,534	1,424
11	1,555	1,395	1,422	1,632	1,579
18	1,493	1,393	1,403	1,568	1,508
25	1,637	1,315	1,383	1,609	1,422
Apr. 1	1,589	1,404	1,388	1,518	1,452
Apr. 8	1,519	1,439	1,387	1,502	1,508
15	1,602	1,478	1,290	1,488	1,608
22	1,515	1,401	1,271	1,576	1,504
29	1,547	1,368	1,321	1,522	1,588
May, 6	1,678	1,301	1,309	1,527	1,498
13	1,534	1,221	1,316	1,439	1,522
20	1,626	1,221	1,197	1,336	1,377
27	1,392	1,101	1,257	1,283	1,329
June 3	1,621	1,294	1,038	1,112	1,138
June 10	1,596	1,254	1,199	1,383	1,377
17	1,343	1,163	1,155	1,298	1,283
24	1,285	1,132	1,103	1,253	1,297
July 1	984	853	1,024	1,164	1,266
July 8	1,313	1,061	941	949	1,054
15	1,242	1,100	1,159	1,232	1,378
22	1,326	1,055	1,181	1,214	1,376
29	1,476	1,027	1,265	1,287	1,318
Aug. 5	1,443	1,051	1,342	1,264	1,337
12	1,454	1,157	1,344	1,315	1,367
19	1,377	1,057	1,332	1,342	1,329
26	1,482	1,169	1,401	1,368	1,349
Sept. 2	1,347	996	1,350	1,411	1,404
Sept. 9	1,628	1,267	1,227	1,270	1,251
16	1,622	1,258	1,579	1,568	1,579
23	1,600	1,198	1,508	1,590	1,565
Oct. 2	1,585	1,188	1,593	1,547	1,496
Oct. 7	1,602	1,159	1,647	1,505	
14	1,541	1,193	1,660	1,582	
21	1,491	1,163	1,669	1,597	
28	1,475	1,194	1,599	1,487	
Nov. 4	1,583	1,275	1,729	1,685	
11	1,574	1,336	1,706	1,603	
18	1,594	1,376	1.646	1,655	
25	1,305	1,069	1,386	1,308	
Dec. 2	1,654	1,372	1,644	1,623	
Dec. 9	1,574	1,237	1,614	1,462	
16	1,492	1,219	1,522	1,504	
23	1,015	949	1,140	1,369	
30	1,014	970	1,206	1,187	

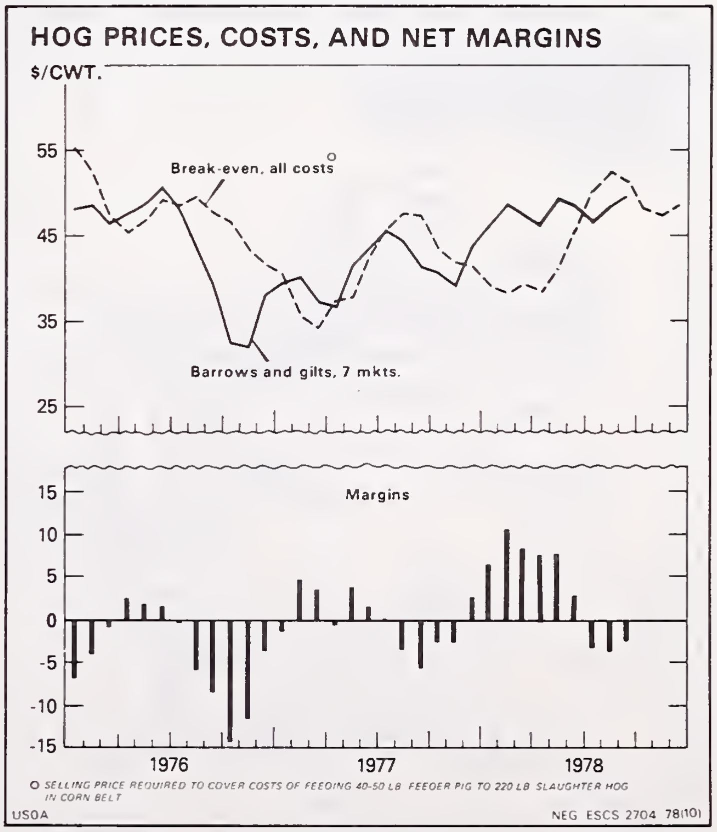
[1] Corresponding dates: 1974, January 12; 1975, January 11; 1976, January 10; 1977, January 8.



Hog prices, costs, and net margins[1]

Year	Barrows & gilts 7 markets	Feed and Feeder	Break-even	Net margins
	$ per cwt.			
1976				
January	48.40	47.31	55.12	-6.72
February	48.85	44.77	52.80	-3.95
March	46.71	39.81	47.56	-.85
April	47.89	37.87	45.48	+2.41
May	48.89	39.29	46.94	+1.95
June	50.80	41.23	49.15	+1.65
July	48.26	40.49	48.35	-.09
August	44.00	41.81	49.79	-5.79
September	39.39	39.96	47.74	-8.35
October	32.66	39.21	46.84	-14.18
November	32.05	36.20	43.57	-11.52
December	38.05	34.70	41.85	-3.80
1977				
January	39.52	33.60	40.65	-1.13
February	40.18	28.62	35.46	+4.72
March	37.53	27.23	34.14	+3.39
April	36.97	30.41	37.42	-.45
May	41.79	30.75	37.83	+3.96
June	43.86	34.91	42.43	+1.43
July	45.76	37.99	45.70	+.06
August	44.38	39.89	47.71	-3.33
September	41.40	39.25	47.21	-5.81
October	40.83	35.71	43.48	-2.65
November	39.33	34.15	41.96	-2.63
December	43.99	33.45	41.22	+2.77
1978				
January	45.99	31.89	39.58	+6.41
February	48.83	30.64	38.25	+10.58
March	47.50	31.63	39.31	+8.19
April	46.04	31.00	38.62	+7.42
May	49.17	33.44	41.32	+7.85
June	48.31	36.97	45.40	+2.91
July	46.78	41.37	50.09	-3.31
Aug.	48.77	43.88	52.71	-3.94
Sept.	50.00	43.58	52.26	-2.26
Oct.		39.60	48.01	
Nov.		38.71	47.12	
Dec.		40.35	48.92	
1979				
Jan.		40.85	49.52	
Feb.				

[1] Selling price required to cover costs of feeding 40-50 lb. feeder pig to 220 lb. slaughter hog in Corn Belt.



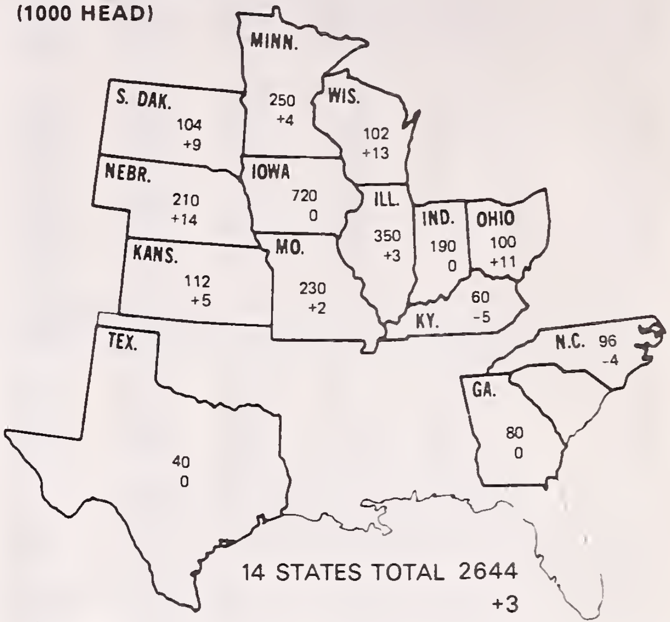
September 1 inventory, farrowings and pig crops, 14 selected States

Item	1976	1977	1978	1979	1978/ 1977
	1,000 head				*% chg.*
INVENTORY: . . .	48,885	49,233	48,940		-1
Breeding:	6,828	7,200	7,396		+3
Market:	42,057	42,033	41,544		-1
Weight groups					
-60 lb.	17,097	17,538	17,209		-2
60-119 lb. . .	10,629	10,590	10,488		-1
120-179 lb. .	8,500	8,074	7,972		-1
180-219 lb. .	4,922	4,981	4,999		0
220 lb. + . . .	909	850	876		+3
FARROWINGS:					
Dec.-Feb.	2,052	2,304	2,285	2,354	-1
Mar.-May	2,907	2,893	2,880	+3	0
Dec.-May	4,959	5,197	5,165		-1
June-Aug.	2,513	2,605	2,597		0
Sept.-Nov.	2,524	2,565	[1] 2,644		+3
June-Nov.	5,037	5,170	5,241		+1
PIG CROPS:					
Dec.-Feb.	14,696	15,586	15,626		0
Mar.-May	21,525	21,386	20,791		-3
Dec.-May	36,221	36,972	36,417		-2
June-Aug.	18,389	18,804	18,693		-1
Sept.-Nov.	17,970	18,421			
June-Nov.	36,359	37,225			
PIGS PER LITTER:					
Dec.-Feb.	7.16	6.76	6.84		+1
Mar.-May	7.40	7.39	7.22		-2
Dec.-May	7.30	7.11	7.05		-1
June-Aug.	7.32	7.22	7.20		-0
Sept.-Nov.	7.12	7.18			
June-Nov.	7.22	7.20			

[1] Intentions.

***SOWS FARROWING SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1978 AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR.**

(1000 HEAD)



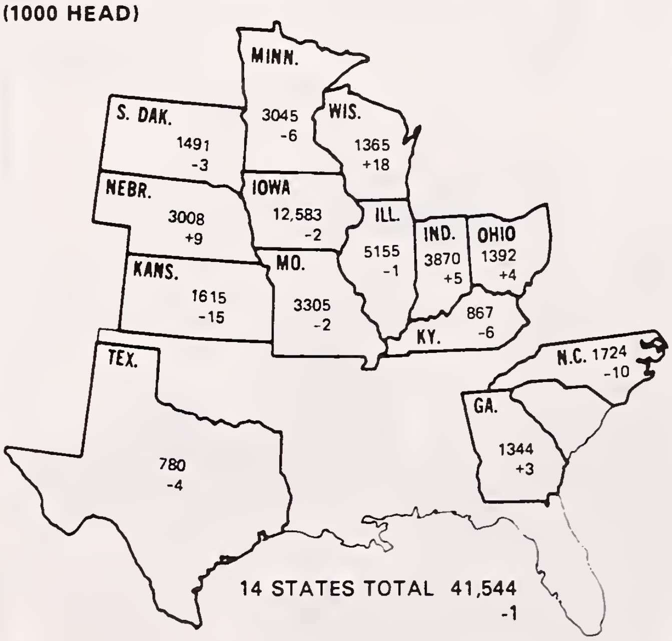
14 STATES TOTAL 2644 +3

*INTENTIONS

USDA NEG. ESCS 823-78(10)

MARKET HOGS ON FARMS SEPTEMBER 1, 1978 AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR.

(1000 HEAD)

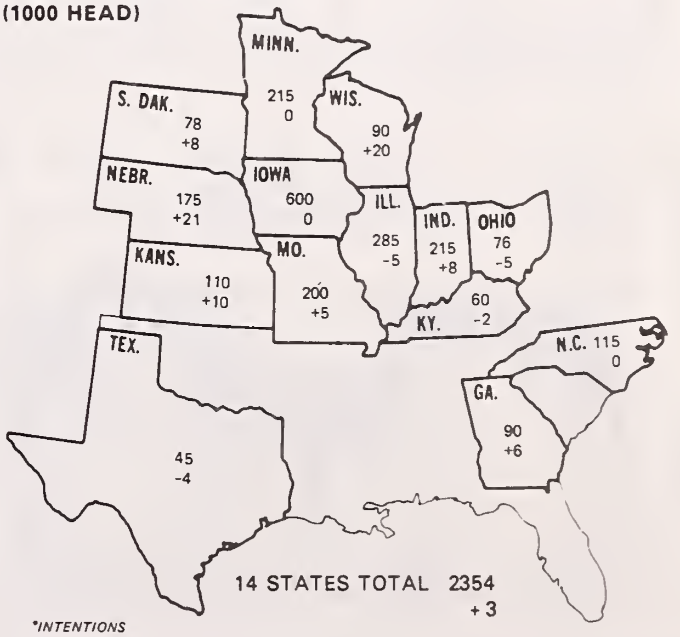


14 STATES TOTAL 41,544 -1

USDA NEG. ESCS 824-78 (9)

SOWS FARROWING DECEMBER-FEBRUARY 1979* AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR.

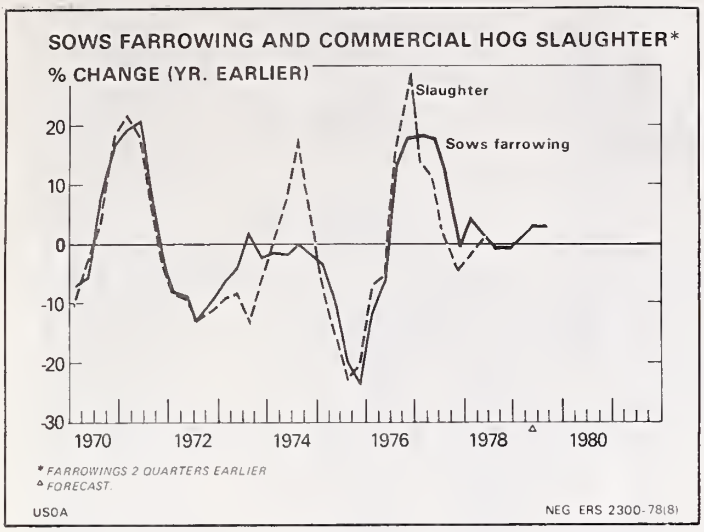
(1000 HEAD)

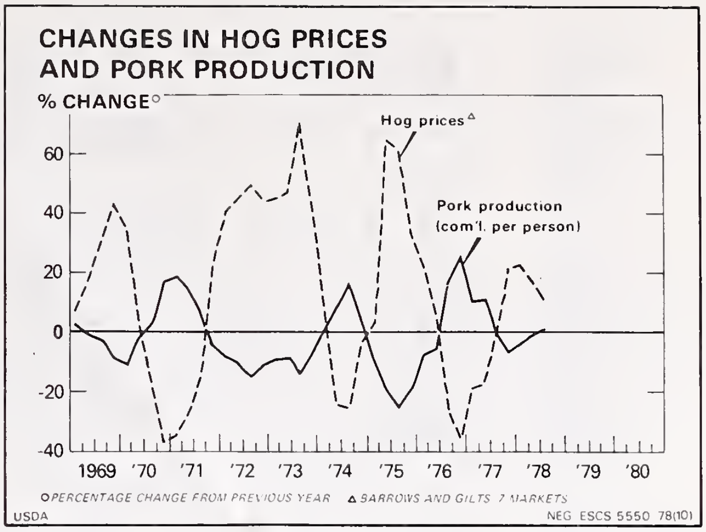


14 STATES TOTAL 2354 +3

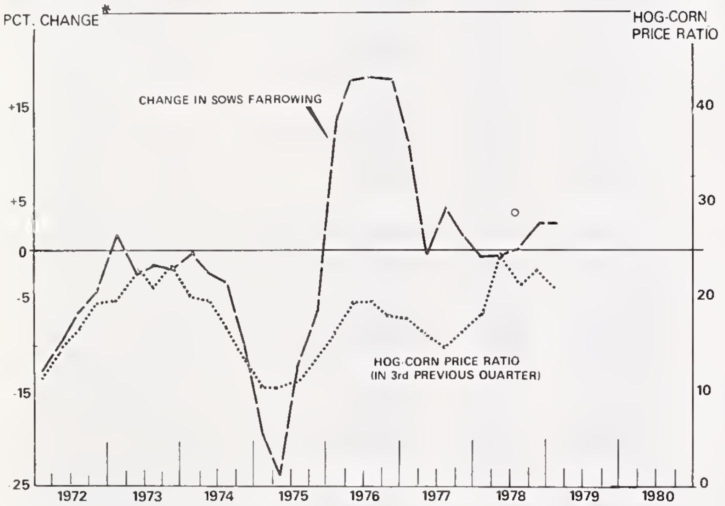
*INTENTIONS

USDA NEG. ESCS 825-78 (9)





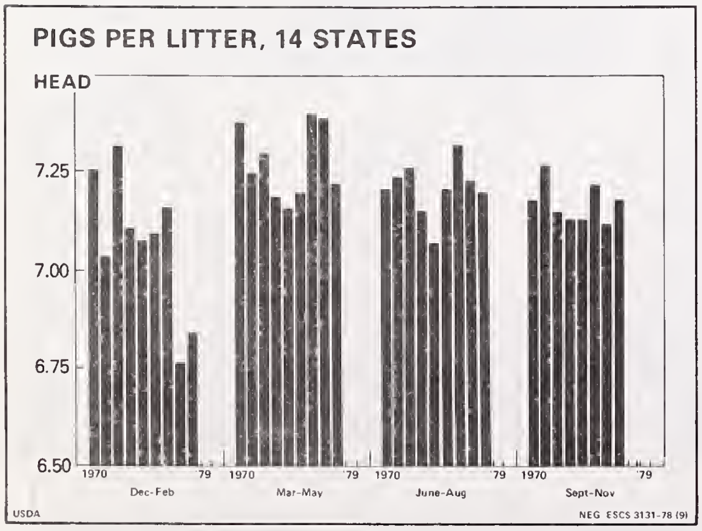
SOWS FARROWING AND HOG/CORN RATIO



* FROM A YEAR EARLIER ○ FARROWING INTENTIONS

Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha basis

Month	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Jan.	21.5	14.8	12.6	18.6	16.4	22.7
Feb.	23.3	13.4	14.1	18.6	16.8	24.0
Mar.	25.4	12.5	14.3	17.7	15.9	22.2
Apr.	23.4	12.1	14.1	18.3	16.0	20.4
May	19.5	10.2	16.4	17.7	18.8	20.9
June	16.9	10.0	17.9	17.6	20.7	20.6
July	19.9	11.2	19.4	16.8	23.8	21.8
Aug.	20.8	10.5	18.6	16.2	26.4	24.5
Sept.	18.4	10.3	20.7	15.1	24.6	24.9
Oct.	17.8	10.6	21.2	13.7	22.6	
Nov.	16.9	11.0	19.4	14.4	19.2	
Dec.	15.7	11.8	18.5	16.4	21.4	
Avg.	19.3	11.3	16.9	16.5	20.2	



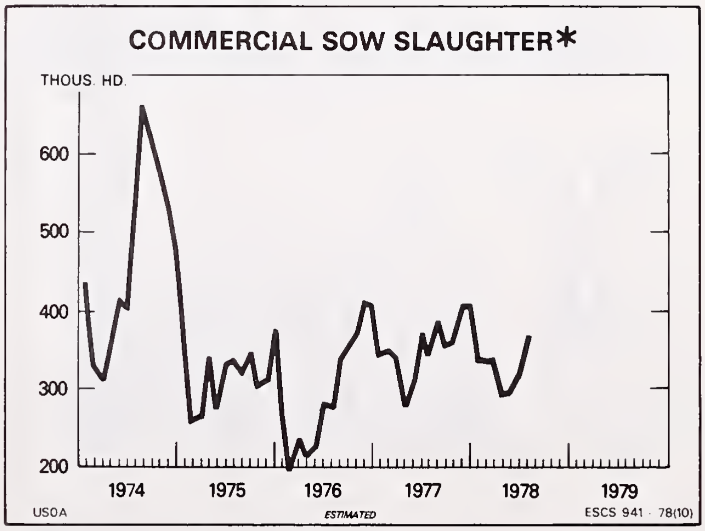


Table 5—Corn Belt hog feeding[1]

Selected costs at current rates[2]

Purchased during Marketed during	June 77 Oct. 77	July Nov.	Aug. Dec.	Sept. Jan. 78	Oct. Feb.	Nov. Mar.	Dec. Apr.	Jan. 78 May	Feb. June	Mar. July	Apr. Aug.	May Sept.	June Oct.	July Nov.	Aug. Dec.	Sept. Jan. 79
	Dollars per head															
Expenses:																
40 lb. feeder pig	35.18	36.90	39.84	37.46	34.94	32.32	30.38	35.88	44.12	51.63	54.57	54.08	45.36	45.21	50.83	52.91
Corn (11 bu.)	23.10	21.12	17.82	17.16	17.38	21.34	21.89	21.56	21.67	23.21	24.86	25.08	24.86	22.99	21.56	20.46
Protein supplement (130 lb.)	20.28	17.10	15.92	15.54	15.08	15.92	15.92	16.12	15.54	16.18	17.10	16.71	16.90	16.96	16.38	16.51
Labor & management (1.3 hr.)	6.97	6.97	6.71	6.71	6.71	7.02	7.02	7.02	7.59	7.59	7.59	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.15	7.15
Vet medicine[3]	1.64	1.64	1.63	1.62	1.62	1.63	1.63	1.68	1.70	1.72	1.74	1.76	1.77	1.77	1.78	1.79
Interest on purchase (4 mo.)	1.06	1.11	1.20	1.12	1.05	.97	.91	1.08	1.32	1.55	1.64	1.62	1.36	1.36	1.52	1.59
Power, equip, fuel, shelter, depreciation[3]	3.99	3.97	3.95	3.95	3.94	3.96	3.97	4.09	4.13	4.19	4.23	4.29	4.30	4.31	4.31	4.35
Death loss (4% of purchase)	1.41	1.48	1.59	1.50	1.40	1.29	1.22	1.44	1.76	2.07	2.18	2.16	1.81	1.81	2.03	2.12
Transportation (100 miles)	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48
Marketing expenses	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Miscellaneous & indirect costs[3]	.41	.41	.40	.40	.40	.41	.41	.42	.42	.43	.43	.44	.44	.44	.44	.45
Total	95.66	92.32	90.68	87.08	84.14	86.48	84.97	90.91	99.87	110.19	115.96	114.96	105.62	103.67	107.62	108.95
	Dollars per cwt.															
Selling price/cwt. required to cover feed and feeder costs (220 lb.)	35.71	34.15	33.45	31.89	30.64	31.63	31.00	33.44	36.97	41.37	43.88	43.58	39.60	38.71	40.35	40.85
Selling price/cwt. required to cover all costs (220 lb.)	43.48	41.96	41.22	39.58	38.25	39.31	38.62	41.32	45.40	50.09	52.71	52.26	48.01	47.12	48.92	49.52
Feed cost per 100 lb. gain	24.10	21.23	18.74	18.17	18.03	20.70	21.01	20.93	20.67	21.88	23.31	23.22	23.20	22.19	21.08	20.54
Barrows and gilts 7 markets/cwt.	40.83	39.33	43.99	45.99	48.83	47.50	46.04	49.17	48.31	46.78	48.77	50.00				
Net margin/cwt.	-2.65	-2.63	+2.77	+6.41	+10.58	+8.19	+7.42	+7.85	+2.91	-3.31	-3.94	-2.26				
Prices:																
40 lb. feeder pig (So. Missouri)	35.18	36.90	39.84	37.46	34.94	32.32	30.38	35.88	44.12	51.63	54.57	54.08	45.36	45.21	50.83	52.91
Corn[4] $/bu.	2.10	1.92	1.62	1.56	1.58	1.94	1.99	1.96	1.97	2.11	2.26	2.28	2.26	2.09	1.96	1.86
38-42% protein supp.[5] $/cwt.	15.60	13.15	12.25	11.95	11.60	12.25	12.25	12.40	11.95	12.45	13.15	12.85	13.00	13.05	12.60	12.70
Labor and management[6] $/hr.	5.36	5.36	5.16	5.16	5.16	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.84	5.84	5.84	5.54	5.54	5.54	5.50	5.50
Interest rate (annual)	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Transportation rate/cwt. (100 miles)[7]	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Marketing expenses[8]	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100)	692	690	686	685	684	687	689	710	717	727	735	744	747	748	749	756

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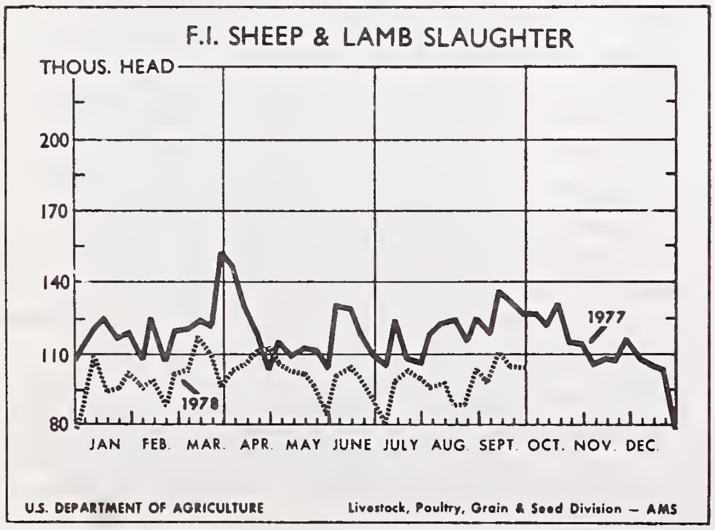
[1] Although a majority of hog feeding operations in the Corn Belt are from farrow to finish, relative fattening expenses will be similar. [2] Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed rations and expense items do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level, and locality of operation. [3] Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes and wage rates. [4] Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [5] Average prices paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [6] Assumes an owner-operator receiving twice the farm labor rate. [7] Converted to cents/cwt. from cents/mile for a 44,000 pound haul. [8] Yardage plus commission fees at a midwest terminal market.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

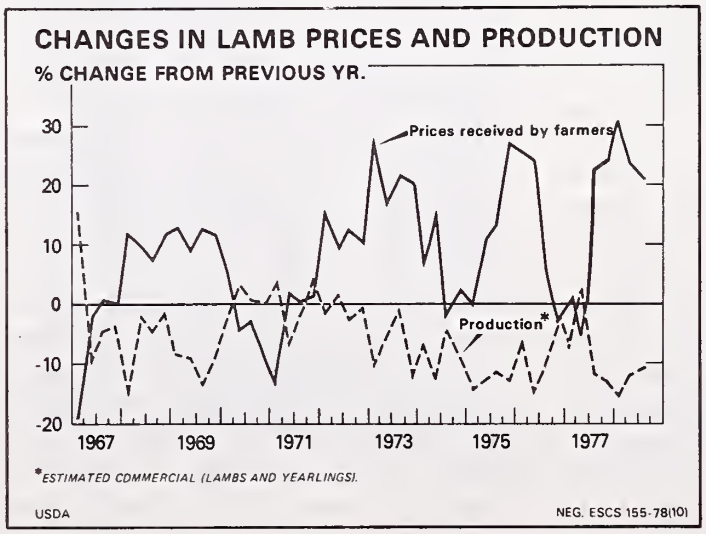
Table 6—Lamb supplies and prices

	Commercial slaughter[1]			Average dressed weight	Commercial production	Per capita consumption[2]	Retail	Prices		
	Lambs and yearlings	Sheep	Total					San Angelo Choice slaughter	San Angelo Choice feeder	Farm[3]
	1,000 head			*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cents/lb.*	*Dollars per/cwt.*		
1974: I	2,082	108	2,190	54	119	.6	137.6	40.21	39.52	38.17
II	1,972	140	2,112	52	109	.6	142.5	45.22	40.21	40.43
III	2,214	199	2,413	49	118	.6	152.3	38.85	31.53	36.20
IV	1,991	141	2,132	51	108	.5	153.3	37.76	34.81	34.83
Year	8,259	588	8,847	51	454	2.3	146.4	40.51	36.52	37.00
1975: I	1,879	65	1,944	52	101	.5	155.9	41.15	37.64	38.17
II	1,773	152	1,925	50	96	.5	163.9	46.78	42.11	44.50
III	1,922	169	2,091	50	104	.5	174.7	43.17	40.08	41.17
IV	1,681	194	1,875	52	98	.5	176.1	46.69	45.78	44.37
Year	7,255	580	7,835	51	399	2.0	167.6	44.45	41.40	42.10
1976: I	1,647	69	1,716	55	95	.5	179.5	51.50	51.45	48.43
II	1.423	138	1,561	53	82	.4	189.0	58.63	56.94	55.37
III	1,655	123	1,778	52	92	.5	190.2	43.54	47.32	43.37
IV	1,558	101	1,659	55	92	.4	183.7	45.81	49.39	43.07
Year	6,283	431	6,714	54	361	1.8	185.6	49.87	51.28	46.90
1977: I	1,499	82	1,581	57	90	.5	181.9	52.98	54.87	49.00
II	1,465	160	1,625	53	86	.4	183.6	55.76	52.24	52.23
III	1,490	163	1,653	51	84	.4	191.5	51.88	50.80	50.33
IV	1,393	103	1,496	54	81	.4	191.2	56.50	62.59	53.97
Year	5,847	508	6,355	54	341	1.7	187.0	54.28	55.12	51.30
1978: I	1,273	68	1,341	56	75	.4	206.9	67.67	74.72	63.77
II	1,244	130	1,374	55	76	.4	227.2	69.14	72.38	64.73
III[4]	1,225	105	1,330	54	72	.4	222.5	61.07	75.27	60.70
IV										
Year										

[1] Classes estimated. [2] Total, including farm production. [3] Weighted annual average. [4] Forecast.


F.I. SHEEP & LAMB SLAUGHTER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Livestock, Poultry, Grain & Seed Division — AMS


CHANGES IN LAMB PRICES AND PRODUCTION

*ESTIMATED COMMERCIAL (LAMBS AND YEARLINGS).

USDA NEG. ESCS 155-78(10)

MEAT CONSUMPTION AND PRICES

Fourth-quarter 1978 red meat supplies are expected to decrease 3-5 percent from a year ago but could be seasonally larger than July-September and just about equal first-quarter levels. Combined red meat and poultry consumption could be near 1977 levels this fall as increased broiler production offsets the decrease in red meats. Retail red meat prices will probably decline seasonally from their summer highs during the fourth quarter but will still be at least 18-20 percent above prices last fall. During the first and second quarters of 1979, red meat supplies are expected to decline from the fall level and remain below year-earlier supplies by 2-3 percent.

The year-to-year decline in fall red meat supplies, for the most part, will be the result of continued reductions in nonfed beef and veal production. Fourth-quarter per person beef supplies could be 4 to 5 percent below last year's levels, while veal supplies might be down by 30-35 percent. This would be the lowest fourth-quarter beef consumption since 1973 when supplies were 28.6 pounds per person. If fourth-quarter beef production estimates are correct, 1978 will still have the third highest annual level of beef consumption, exceeded only by 1976 and 1977 and just about equaling 1975.

Fourth-quarter per person pork supplies are expected to increase from their summer levels and could equal or be slightly below year-ago averages. Pork supplies during the first half of 1979 could be about 2 percent greater than the 1978 level. Lamb consumption is also expected to be reduced during the fall quarter as a result of the delayed movement of lambs from Texas. However, this could cause a year-to-year increase in lamb production during the first quarter of 1979.

Retail beef prices are expected to decline seasonally from their summer levels during the early fall, but could start to increase in the late fall and in early 1979. The rate at which retail beef prices change will depend to a large extent upon the changes in supplies of beef and competing meats. Also of importance are changes in consumer income and the general price level.

Normally, cow slaughter, therefore cow beef production, is the highest during the fourth quarter. However, this fall the seasonal increase in cow slaughter is expected to be small and cow beef production could be only a little above summer levels. Generally, the difference between the wholesale price of Choice steer beef and cow beef at Midwest markets is the narrowest during March and then gradually increases until September or October when it is at its widest level of the year. This year, the price difference between these two types of meat was 7.1 cents per pound during March, and gradually widened to 12.42 cents per pound in June, but then declined sharply in August and September, averaging only 4.25 cents. This was the result of a 31-percent increase in wholesale cow beef prices compared with a 16-percent increase in Choice beef prices.

As cow slaughter continues to decline from year-earlier levels this fall and early next year, the price difference could narrow even more, causing a higher rate of increase in retail ground beef prices than in Choice cuts such as steaks. Since pork supplies are expected to just about equal year-ago levels during the fourth quarter and only be slightly above year-earlier levels during the first half of 1979, poultry supplies will show the only real year-to-year increases.

Another factor determining the rate of change in retail meat prices is consumers' income. Real disposable personal income has been increasing during each quarter of 1978. During the fourth quarter, it is expected to average 2.5 percent higher than a year ago. Forecasts are for the economy to continue to expand during 1979, with disposable income averaging about 4 percent higher during each of the first two quarters than it did in 1978. The current general economic expansion is 43 months old, which means the economy has been improving for a much longer time than normal. Slower rates of increase in consumers' income could be reflected in a slackening of consumer purchases of meat at the higher meat prices.

Changes in the general price level also affect the rate of change in retail meat prices. Historically, when beef supplies are declining and prices are increasing, retail beef prices have at least kept pace with, and more often exceeded, the rate of inflation. Inflation is expected to continue during the fall quarter at a rate of 7 percent.

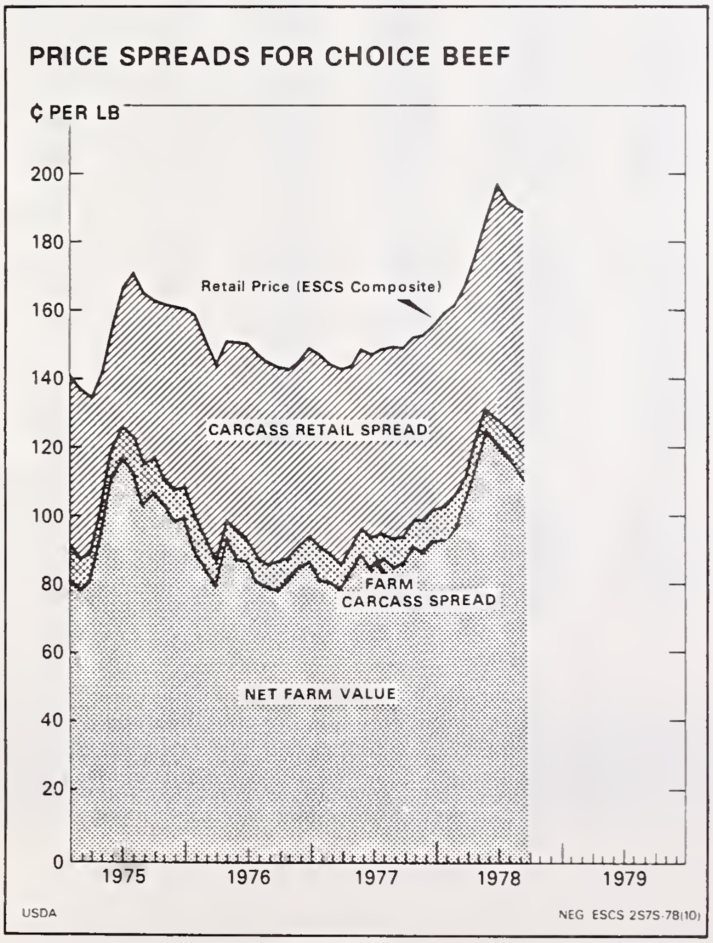
Commercial red meat production through the first three quarters of 1978 was about 3.0 percent below the same period in 1977. On a monthly basis, commercial production has averaged just below year-ago levels except in May when it was slightly higher. As meat production slipped, retail red meat prices rose very rapidly. Month-to-month increases in the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Total Meat Price Index averaged over 3 percent from January to June and declined slightly in July and August. Through the first three quarters of 1978, the Total Meat Price Index will likely average 17 percent higher than a year ago, mainly as a result of an expected 20-percent increase in beef and veal prices and an almost 12-percent increase in pork prices.

This very large and rapid rise in red meat prices was unexpected and is difficult to explain. Part of the explanation is the small decrease in beef supplies and the increases in consumers' income and employment. Another part of the explanation is that the retail value of meat, specifically beef, might have been underpriced compared with other consumer products at the beginning of 1978. The BLS Consumer Price Index is an attempt to measure the average change over time in prices paid by U.S. consumers for goods they use in everyday living. In 1967, all the prices of the items in the index were set equal to 100, including the Beef and Veal Price Index (BVPI). During 1977 the total CPI averaged 182; that is, on the average, what had cost $1.00 in 1967 cost $1.82 in 1977. However, the BVPI during 1977 had only averaged 164, 10 percent below the average of all the prices consumers paid. If current fourth-quarter price expectations are correct, the 1978 CPI will average about 195 while the BVPI likely will average almost 200. The beef index would then be about 2½ percent above the CPI. During 1978, the CPI will have increased about 7 percent while the BVPI increased almost 22 percent. Disequilibrium is temporary in a real market place but is a continuing phenomenon when production response lags so far behind price change.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads Widen

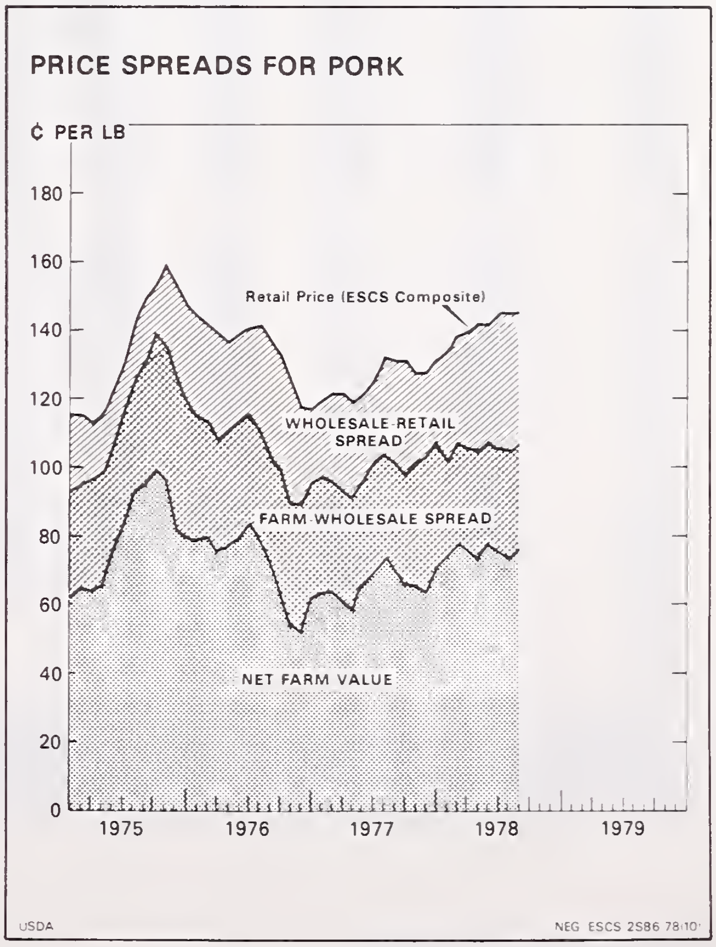
The retail price of Choice grade beef, which averaged a record-high 195.2 cents per pound in June, has slipped from that level during the third quarter. Fed cattle prices, however, started to drop in late June and have declined at a faster rate than retail prices during the summer. The result has been a 20-percent increase between the May and June farm-retail spread and a new record price spread in August of 79.8 cents. With prospects for some decline in live animal prices early this fall as cattle marketings increase, farm-retail spreads could hold at current levels. By late fall and during the first half of 1979, expectations are for higher cattle prices which would put pressure on marketing margins and reduce the price spread.

The farm-retail price spread for pork averaged a yearly high in July of 70.3 cents per pound before moving slightly lower in August and September. This was still 2.2 cents below the record farm-retail spread set in November of 1975. During the first three quarters of 1978, the spread has widened as a result of relatively stable live animal prices and gradual increases in the retail price. Actually, retail pork prices increased during the first two quarters but have stabilized around 144 cents per pound since June. This margin provides an opportunity for some retail price decline even if live animal prices hold steady or increase slightly. Over long periods of time, however, higher marketing costs, both for beef and pork, which are not offset by improved productivity, are eventually passed on to consumers.



PRICE SPREADS FOR CHOICE BEEF

USDA NEG. ESCS 2575-78(10)



PRICE SPREADS FOR PORK

USDA NEG. ESCS 2586-78(10)

Table 7—Beef, choice yield Grade 3: Retail, carcass, and farm values, spreads, and farmers' share, 1965 to present[1]

Year	Retail price[2]	Gross carcass value[3]	Carcass by-product allowance[4]	Net carcass value[5]	Gross farm value[6]	Farm by-product allow-ance	Net farm value[8]	Farm-retail spread			Farmers' share[9]
								Total	Carcass-retail	Farm-carcass	
	Cents/lb.										*Percent*
1965	82.0	60.2	1.1	59.1	59.9	6.1	53.8	28.2	22.9	5.3	66
1966	84.4	60.7	1.1	59.6	61.0	6.7	54.3	30.1	24.8	5.3	64
1967	84.6	61.7	1.1	60.6	60.4	5.2	55.2	29.4	24.0	5.4	65
1968	88.7	65.5	1.2	64.3	64.0	5.2	58.8	29.9	24.4	5.5	66
1969	98.6	71.3	1.3	70.0	70.7	6.2	64.5	34.1	28.6	5.5	65
1970	101.7	71.1	1.3	69.8	70.2	6.3	63.9	37.8	31.9	5.9	63
1971	108.1	78.8	1.4	77.4	76.7	6.2	70.5	37.6	30.7	6.9	65
1972	118.7	83.5	1.5	82.0	85.0	9.4	75.6	43.1	36.7	6.4	64
1973	142.1	102.5	1.8	100.7	106.8	12.6	94.2	47.9	41.4	6.5	66
1974	146.3	101.8	1.8	100.0	101.5	10.1	91.4	54.9	46.3	8.6	62
1975	154.8	110.2	2.0	108.2	108.6	9.6	99.0	55.8	46.6	9.2	64
1976	148.2	93.1	1.7	91.5	94.4	10.4	84.1	64.1	56.7	7.4	57
1977	148.4	95.7	1.9	93.8	97.3	11.8	85.5	62.9	54.6	8.3	58
1972											
I	119.0	84.9	1.5	83.4	84.3	7.5	76.8	42.2	35.6	6.6	65
II	117.0	84.7	1.5	83.2	85.6	9.0	76.6	40.4	33.8	6.6	65
III	120.3	83.4	1.5	81.9	85.8	10.0	75.8	44.5	38.4	6.1	63
IV	118.3	81.1	1.5	79.6	84.2	11.1	73.1	45.2	38.7	6.5	62
1973											
I	135.2	99.3	1.8	97.5	103.1	11.9	91.2	44.0	37.7	6.3	67
II	142.3	104.4	1.9	102.5	109.6	12.8	96.8	45.5	39.8	5.7	68
III	148.8	110.1	2.0	108.1	117.9	14.0	103.9	44.9	40.7	4.2	70
IV	142.0	96.1	1.7	94.4	96.8	11.9	84.9	57.1	47.6	9.5	60
1974											
I	152.6	108.7	2.0	106.7	109.5	12.2	97.3	55.3	45.9	9.4	64
II	141.7	97.8	1.8	96.0	96.4	9.7	86.7	55.0	45.7	9.3	61
III	148.8	106.6	1.9	104.7	107.2	10.4	96.8	52.0	44.1	7.9	65
IV	142.1	94.3	1.7	92.6	92.8	8.4	84.4	57.7	49.5	8.2	59
1975											
I	137.2	90.5	1.6	89.0	87.5	7.2	80.0	57.2	48.2	9.0	58
II	155.3	118.5	2.1	116.4	117.6	9.8	107.8	47.5	38.9	8.6	69
III	166.0	120.6	2.2	118.4	118.1	10.7	107.5	58.5	47.6	10.9	65
IV	160.9	111.3	2.0	109.3	111.0	10.5	100.5	60.4	51.6	8.8	62
1976											
I	151.3	94.3	1.7	92.7	93.4	9.4	84.0	67.3	58.6	8.7	56
II	150.8	97.6	1.7	95.8	100.5	11.5	89.0	61.8	55.0	6.8	59
III	145.3	88.0	1.6	86.4	89.9	10.4	79.5	65.8	58.9	6.9	55
IV	145.4	92.6	1.7	90.9	94.0	10.2	83.8	61.6	54.5	7.1	58
1977											
I	144.6	89.9	1.7	88.2	91.2	11.5	79.7	64.9	56.4	8.5	55
II	146.4	95.5	1.9	93.6	98.6	12.5	87.0	59.4	52.8	6.6	59
III	149.0	96.1	2.1	93.9	97.3	11.6	85.7	63.3	55.1	8.2	58
IV	153.4	101.3	1.9	99.4	102.3	11.7	90.5	62.9	54.0	8.9	59
1976											
Jan.	158.1	101.5	1.7	99.8	99.5	9.9	89.6	68.5	58.3	10.2	57
Feb.	151.8	94.4	1.7	92.7	93.4	9.3	84.1	67.7	59.1	8.6	55
Mar.	143.9	87.1	1.6	85.5	87.3	9.0	78.3	65.6	58.4	7.2	54
Apr.	151.2	100.8	1.8	99.0	105.1	11.9	93.2	58.0	52.2	5.8	62
May	151.1	96.5	1.7	94.8	98.6	11.4	87.2	63.9	56.3	7.6	58
June	150.1	95.4	1.7	93.7	97.8	11.1	86.7	63.4	56.4	7.0	58
July	147.5	88.8	1.6	87.2	91.1	10.5	80.6	66.9	60.3	6.6	55
Aug.	144.9	87.5	1.6	85.9	89.6	10.3	79.3	65.6	59.0	6.6	55
Sept.	143.4	87.8	1.6	86.2	89.0	10.3	78.7	64.7	57.2	7.5	55
Oct.	142.6	89.2	1.7	87.5	91.0	10.6	80.4	62.2	55.1	7.1	56
Nov.	145.1	93.0	1.7	91.3	94.5	9.7	84.8	60.3	53.8	6.5	58
Dec.	148.5	95.7	1.7	94.0	96.4	10.3	86.1	62.4	54.5	7.9	58
1977											
Jan.	147.1	91.7	1.7	90.0	91.9	11.2	80.7	66.4	57.1	9.3	55
Feb.	144.0	90.3	1.7	88.6	91.5	11.3	80.2	63.8	55.4	8.4	56
Mar.	142.7	87.7	1.8	85.9	90.3	12.1	78.2	64.5	56.8	7.7	55
Apr.	143.5	92.8	1.9	90.9	97.2	13.1	84.1	59.4	52.6	6.8	59
May	148.4	97.9	1.9	96.0	101.3	12.8	88.5	59.9	52.4	7.5	60
June	147.3	95.7	1.9	93.8	97.2	11.7	85.5	61.8	53.5	8.3	58
July	148.4	96.9	2.1	94.8	98.6	11.6	87.0	61.4	53.6	7.8	59
Aug.	149.4	95.3	2.2	93.1	96.1	11.6	84.5	64.9	56.3	8.6	57
Sept.	149.2	96.0	2.1	93.9	97.2	11.5	85.7	63.5	55.3	8.2	57
Oct.	152.0	100.4	1.9	98.5	101.8	11.5	90.3	61.7	53.5	8.2	59
Nov.	152.5	100.1	1.9	98.2	101.0	11.8	89.2	63.3	54.3	9.0	58
Dec.	155.7	103.5	2.0	101.5	104.0	11.9	92.1	63.6	54.2	9.4	59
1978											
Jan.	159.5	104.2	2.1	102.1	104.7	12.3	92.4	67.1	57.4	9.7	58
Feb.	161.7	107.8	2.0	105.8	108.5	12.4	96.1	65.6	55.9	9.7	59
Mar.	167.0	113.4	2.0	111.4	118.1	13.1	105.0	62.0	55.6	6.4	63
Apr.	176.0	123.1	2.1	121.0	127.5	13.5	114.0	62.0	55.0	7.0	65
May	185.9	133.7	2.2	131.5	139.2	14.3	124.9	61.0	54.4	6.6	67
June	195.2	130.5	2.2	128.3	134.6	14.7	119.9	75.3	66.9	8.4	61
July	191.6	127.6	2.3	125.3	131.8	15.0	116.8	74.8	66.3	8.5	61
Aug.	189.3	121.0	2.5	118.5	125.8	16.3	109.5	79.8	70.8	9.0	58
Sept.											
Oct.											
Nov.											
Dec.											

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[1] Revised series. [2] Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts from Choice Yield Grade 3 carcass. [3] Value of carcass quantity equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. A wholesale carcass equivalent of 1,464 was used prior to 1970, it was increased gradually to 1,476 in 1976 and later years. [4] Portion of gross carcass value attributed to fat and bone trim [5] Gross carcass value minus carcass byproduct allowance. [6] Market value to producer for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. The farm product equivalent of 2.36 was used prior to 1970; it was increased gradually to 2.40 in 1976 and later years. [7] Portion of gross farm value attributed to edible and inedible byproducts. [8] Gross farm value minus farm byproduct allowance. [9] Percent net farm value is of retail price.

Table 8— Pork: Retail, wholesale, and farm values, spreads, and farmers' share, 1965 to present[1]

Year	Retail price[2]	Wholesale value[3]	Gross farm value[4]	Byproduct allowance[5]	Net farm value[6]	Farm-Retail Spread: Total	Farm-Retail Spread: Wholesale retail	Farm-Retail Spread: Farm-wholesale	Farmers' value[7]
	Cents/lb.								Percent
1965	65.2	55.8	44.0	3.9	40.1	25.1	9.4	15.7	62
1966	73.4	61.6	48.0	4.1	43.9	29.5	11.8	17.7	60
1967	66.6	55.0	39.2	2.9	36.3	30.3	11.6	18.7	55
1968	66.8	55.3	38.0	2.4	35.6	31.2	11.5	19.7	53
1969	73.6	62.8	46.4	3.7	42.7	30.9	10.8	20.1	58
1970	77.4	63.4	43.0	3.7	39.3	38.1	14.0	24.1	51
1971	69.8	57.0	34.9	2.9	32.0	37.8	12.8	25.0	46
1972	82.7	71.3	49.6	3.4	46.2	36.5	11.4	25.1	56
1973	109.2	95.8	73.8	6.2	67.6	41.6	13.4	28.2	62
1974	107.8	85.5	63.6	6.4	57.2	50.6	22.3	28.3	53
1975	134.6	115.3	86.5	6.6	79.8	54.8	19.3	35.5	59
1976	134.0	105.2	75.8	4.8	71.0	63.0	28.8	34.2	53
1977	125.4	99.0	70.2	4.6	65.6	59.8	26.4	33.4	52
1972									
I	78.5	67.0	45.7	3.2	42.5	36.0	11.5	24.5	54
II	79.4	66.7	46.2	3.3	42.9	36.5	12.7	23.8	54
III	85.6	73.4	53.3	3.6	49.7	35.9	12.2	23.7	58
IV	87.2	78.2	53.4	3.5	49.9	37.3	9.0	28.3	57
1973									
I	97.6	87.9	64.8	4.5	60.3	37.3	9.7	27.6	62
II	102.6	87.2	67.0	5.8	61.2	41.4	15.4	26.0	60
III	121.2	111.7	89.2	8.0	81.2	40.0	9.5	30.5	67
IV	115.5	96.5	74.5	6.8	67.7	47.8	19.0	28.8	59
1974									
I	114.8	90.9	68.7	6.7	62.0	52.8	23.9	28.9	54
II	98.9	73.3	50.1	4.7	45.4	53.5	25.6	27.9	46
III	107.0	85.6	65.5	6.5	59.0	48.0	21.4	26.6	55
IV	110.6	92.2	69.9	7.4	62.5	48.1	18.4	29.7	56
1975									
I	114.1	95.2	69.3	5.5	63.7	50.4	18.9	31.5	56
II	122.7	107.5	81.1	6.3	74.8	47.9	15.2	32.7	61
III	148.8	132.0	103.6	7.9	95.7	53.1	16.8	36.3	64
IV	152.9	126.6	91.9	6.6	85.2	67.7	26.3	41.4	56
1976									
I	141.2	112.1	83.0	5.4	77.6	63.6	29.1	34.5	55
II	138.2	112.9	85.1	5.3	79.8	58.4	25.3	33.1	58
III	137.1	104.5	75.9	5.0	70.9	66.2	32.6	33.6	52
IV	119.6	91.5	59.2	3.7	55.5	64.1	28.1	36.0	46
1977									
I	120.5	95.0	66.4	4.5	61.9	58.6	25.5	33.1	51
II	121.7	96.6	69.4	4.8	64.6	57.1	25.1	32.0	53
III	131.0	100.9	74.5	4.8	69.7	61.3	30.1	31.2	53
IV	128.2	103.3	70.4	4.4	66.0	62.2	24.9	37.3	52
1976									
Jan.	143.9	115.3	83.7	5.3	78.4	65.5	28.6	36.9	55
Feb.	141.3	113.2	84.5	5.6	78.9	62.4	28.1	34.3	56
Mar.	138.4	107.7	80.8	5.2	75.6	62.8	30.7	32.1	55
Apr.	136.3	110.8	82.8	5.2	77.6	58.7	25.5	33.2	57
May	138.3	113.7	84.6	5.3	79.3	59.0	24.6	34.4	57
June	140.1	114.3	87.9	5.4	82.5	57.6	25.8	31.8	59
July	141.8	110.2	83.5	5.5	78.0	63.8	31.6	32.2	55
Aug.	137.1	103.7	76.1	5.2	70.9	66.2	33.4	32.8	52
Sept.	132.4	99.5	68.1	4.4	63.7	68.7	32.9	35.8	48
Oct.	124.6	89.8	56.5	3.4	52.9	71.7	34.8	36.9	42
Nov.	117.3	89.0	55.4	3.5	51.9	65.4	28.3	37.1	44
Dec.	117.0	95.8	65.8	4.1	61.7	55.3	21.2	34.1	53
1977									
Jan.	119.5	96.4	67.2	4.4	62.8	56.7	23.1	33.6	53
Feb.	121.0	95.8	68.3	4.7	63.6	57.4	25.2	32.2	53
Mar.	120.9	92.8	63.8	4.5	59.3	61.6	28.1	33.5	49
Apr.	118.8	91.4	62.8	4.5	58.3	60.5	27.4	33.1	49
May	120.8	97.2	71.0	5.0	66.0	54.8	23.6	31.2	55
June	125.6	101.3	74.6	4.9	69.7	55.9	24.3	31.6	56
July	132.0	103.9	77.8	5.1	72.7	59.3	28.1	31.2	55
Aug.	130.2	101.3	75.4	4.8	70.6	59.6	28.9	30.7	54
Sept.	130.7	97.7	70.4	4.5	65.9	64.8	33.0	31.8	50
Oct.	126.8	100.7	69.4	4.4	65.0	61.8	26.1	35.7	51
Nov.	127.4	102.4	66.9	4.2	62.7	64.7	25.0	39.7	49
Dec.	130.5	106.7	74.8	4.5	70.3	60.2	23.8	36.4	54
1978									
Jan.	133.8	101.7	78.2	5.2	73.0	60.8	32.1	28.7	55
Feb.	138.0	106.9	83.0	5.6	77.4	60.6	31.1	29.5	56
Mar.	139.2	105.8	80.8	6.0	74.8	64.4	33.4	31.0	54
Apr.	141.6	104.6	78.3	5.6	72.7	68.9	37.0	31.9	51
May	141.4	106.9	83.6	5.9	77.7	63.7	34.5	29.2	55
June	144.2	105.4	82.1	6.0	76.1	68.1	38.8	29.3	53
July	144.2	104.7	79.6	5.7	73.9	70.3	39.5	30.8	51
Aug.	144.4	107.5	82.8	6.0	76.8	67.6	36.9	30.7	53
Sept.									
Oct.									
Nov.									
Dec.									

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[1] Revised series. [2] Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts from pork carcass. [3] Value of wholesale quantity equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. A wholesale carcass equivalent of 1.06 is used for all years. [4] Market values to producer for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. The farm product equivalent of 2.12 was used prior to 1959; it was decreased gradually to 1.70 in 1977 and later. [5] Portion of gross farm value attributable to edible and inedible byproducts. [6] Gross farm value minus byproduct allowance. [7] Percent net farm value is of retail price.

Table 9— Average retail price of meat per pound, United States, by months, 1965 to date[1]

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
						Beef, Choice grade[2]							
1965	78.7	78.0	77.3	79.4	81.2	84.9	85.8	84.9	83.7	83.1	83.9	83.6	82.0
1966	82.9	85.1	86.1	86.6	85.8	83.7	83.5	83.7	84.2	83.3	82.3	85.6	84.4
1967	82.3	82.8	82.7	82.3	81.5	83.9	85.3	86.0	87.6	87.3	86.4	87.3	84.6
1968	86.3	87.1	87.7	87.7	87.9	87.9	89.2	89.1	90.5	89.8	90.2	90.6	88.7
1969	91.6	91.8	93.1	95.5	100.1	104.3	105.0	103.6	101.7	97.8	99.1	99.5	98.6
1970	100.2	100.0	102.3	102.8	102.4	101.5	103.8	103.5	101.9	101.0	100.8	99.7	101.7
1971	100.5	104.7	105.8	107.6	108.6	109.5	108.6	109.6	109.9	109.1	110.4	112.7	108.1
1972	116.0	120.4	120.5	116.6	116.1	118.3	122.3	120.8	117.9	117.8	117.4	119.8	118.7
1973	127.7	136.3	141.7	142.4	142.5	142.0	143.0	151.3	152.1	142.8	141.8	141.3	142.1
1974	150.4	157.8	149.7	143.6	142.3	139.3	145.5	151.3	149.5	144.5	142.1	139.7	146.3
1975	140.5	136.5	134.5	141.8	156.7	167.3	170.8	165.0	162.3	161.9	160.7	160.1	154.8
1976	158.1	151.8	143.9	151.2	151.1	150.1	147.5	144.9	143.4	142.6	145.1	148.5	148.2
1977	147.1	144.0	142.7	143.5	148.4	147.3	148.4	149.4	149.2	152.0	152.5	155.7	148.4
1978	159.5	161.7	167.0	176.0	185.9	195.2	191.6	189.3					
						Veal, retail cuts							
1965	82.9	84.2	82.6	82.4	82.9	81.9	84.3	84.5	83.4	85.1	82.6	82.8	83.3
1966	85.1	89.2	89.4	90.3	88.5	90.7	91.1	90.6	91.3	91.3	90.5	91.4	90.0
1967	92.0	90.1	91.4	92.8	93.3	93.7	93.9	96.1	96.3	96.7	97.4	97.2	94.2
1968	99.8	99.2	100.0	102.0	100.0	102.5	101.7	101.4	101.9	101.1	101.9	100.9	101.0
1969	102.5	103.7	104.6	107.5	108.6	112.5	114.0	115.0	115.1	115.2	114.6	116.3	110.8
1970	117.2	119.3	120.8	123.3	123.9	124.9	125.7	126.6	127.0	127.4	127.6	127.9	124.3
1971	128.9	129.4	130.6	132.9	133.7	134.8	138.5	139.3	139.6	140.3	140.6	140.9	135.8
1972	142.8	148.6	149.7	151.0	151.7	154.2	156.4	157.3	157.6	158.4	159.4	159.9	153.9
1973	162.2	169.1	176.9	180.5	181.1	181.3	183.2	188.7	188.5	190.6	186.2	191.6	181.7
1974	194.5	198.4	199.1	194.8	193.3	193.7	192.4	194.8	196.1	192.4	189.1	190.6	194.1
1975	187.0	183.5	179.6	180.2	182.9	183.1	186.6	181.6	178.2	176.8	176.7	177.4	181.1
1976	174.4	173.7	173.3	171.7	173.9	177.2	176.5	175.4	172.9	170.4	170.1	169.8	173.3
1977	176.7	178.4	175.2	175.8	174.9	175.2	174.6	175.6	174.3	172.3	175.8	174.5	175.3
1978	176.5	180.3	183.0	186.0	191.3	210.3	223.0	225.8					
						Pork[2]							
1965	56.9	56.1	56.8	56.5	60.2	66.0	69.8	71.1	71.7	70.7	70.5	76.6	65.2
1966	79.3	79.5	76.8	71.9	70.5	72.8	73.4	75.1	73.7	71.1	68.8	67.5	73.4
1967	66.9	65.6	63.9	62.6	65.4	69.4	70.4	69.6	68.7	66.0	66.0	64.3	66.6
1968	64.8	66.1	66.5	65.7	66.1	67.2	68.8	68.4	68.2	67.2	66.5	66.4	66.8
1969	67.3	67.9	68.4	68.5	71.0	74.3	76.2	77.6	78.2	78.0	77.4	79.0	73.6
1970	81.4	81.1	80.7	79.3	79.4	79.4	80.0	79.1	76.1	74.0	70.2	67.9	77.4
1971	67.9	68.9	69.4	68.2	67.7	69.1	70.9	71.1	70.5	70.8	70.9	72.4	69.8
1972	75.8	80.8	78.9	77.7	78.9	81.5	85.1	85.5	86.1	87.0	86.7	88.0	82.7
1973	93.6	96.6	102.5	102.2	101.9	103.6	107.0	130.9	125.7	116.5	114.8	115.2	109.2
1974	116.2	116.7	111.4	104.3	99.0	93.3	103.3	108.3	109.5	108.5	111.0	112.3	107.8
1975	114.6	114.5	113.3	115.4	122.6	130.1	143.3	149.7	153.3	158.2	153.5	147.1	134.6
1976	143.9	141.3	138.4	136.3	138.3	140.1	141.8	137.1	132.4	124.6	117.3	117.0	134.0
1977	119.5	121.0	120.9	118.8	120.8	125.6	132.0	130.2	130.7	126.8	127.4	130.5	125.4
1978	133.8	138.0	139.2	141.6	141.4	144.2	144.2	144.4					
						Lamb, Choice grade							
1965	75.4	74.4	76.4	77.5	78.3	81.4	83.8	82.5	81.5	80.5	80.2	79.1	79.2
1966	81.8	85.8	87.6	86.4	85.6	86.6	86.8	86.3	85.2	84.9	86.1	84.5	85.6
1967	84.6	83.4	83.3	82.9	84.6	88.8	89.5	89.3	90.3	89.6	90.2	89.9	87.2
1968	89.8	90.4	92.0	92.5	93.3	93.7	94.5	93.6	93.1	94.5	94.2	93.5	92.9
1969	94.5	95.9	96.4	97.1	100.1	101.8	104.4	102.9	103.4	103.9	103.7	104.8	100.7
1970	104.8	104.8	104.7	105.6	103.9	105.7	106.0	106.3	106.3	105.9	105.9	106.4	105.5
1971	105.9	106.5	107.0	107.4	108.0	109.6	111.4	111.5	112.6	110.9	112.7	113.0	109.7
1972	113.0	115.3	115.5	116.0	115.7	119.0	121.2	121.5	121.0	121.5	122.5	123.7	118.8
1973	125.6	130.2	136.1	135.5	134.2	132.2	133.4	140.4	145.4	135.2	131.3	131.7	134.3
1974	132.6	138.2	141.9	141.3	141.8	144.4	151.4	151.5	154.1	151.8	152.2	155.9	146.4
1975	156.0	157.1	154.5	158.2	164.2	169.2	174.9	173.5	175.7	175.0	176.5	177.0	167.6
1976	178.3	178.3	181.8	184.0	189.0	194.1	193.6	191.2	185.7	184.9	183.6	182.6	185.6
1977	181.4	182.8	181.3	178.3	183.3	188.5	192.6	192.9	188.3	189.2	193.6	189.7	186.8
1978	199.8	206.8	214.0	220.3	224.7	236.7	222.2	222.6					

[1] Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts. Compiled by Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service. [2] Series revised. See Special Article in LMS-222, August 1978.

Table 10—Average retail price of specified meat cuts, per pound, by months, 1973 to date[1]

Year and item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Cents											
Choice Beef:												
Porterhouse steak												
1973	187	197	203	200	201	200	202	205	205	194	191	190
1974	201	208	200	196	197	197	206	217	215	208	208	202
1975	201	199	196	207	234	259	268	259	261	257	251	251
1976	247	232	220	230	232	231	230	224	220	216	219	222
1977	215	215	214	217	231	236	243	244	241	242	238	245
1978	245	253	259	274	290	309	308	305				
Round steak, full cut B.I.												
1973	148	160	164	163	162	162	161	168	167	158	156	154
1974	163	171	161	157	155	152	160	169	167	160	161	156
1975	154	153	149	157	178	188	190	184	179	182	180	179
1976	177	167	166	173	171	163	161	157	154	149	157	162
1977	158	166	164	165	173	169	169	161	170	170	171	173
1978	176	177	184	197	206	216	205	208				
Rib roast, small end B.I.												
1973	151	158	161	162	162	162	162	165	168	163	161	160
1974	168	174	166	163	164	161	168	178	177	172	168	166
1975	169	166	160	168	187	212	221	212	206	202	201	201
1976	201	187	182	187	188	187	183	181	180	178	184	188
1977	189	182	180	181	185	186	189	189	188	191	196	204
1978	209	207	210	221	231	245	243	240				
Rump roast, B.O.												
1973	154	162	165	166	166	166	167	172	175	168	167	167
1974	179	185	176	171	170	167	173	182	180	175	175	172
1975	173	170	167	175	193	200	202	195	194	196	194	193
1976	190	184	175	182	180	179	174	169	169	167	172	174
1977	174	173	172	170	176	172	175	176	173	178	180	181
1978	181	182	190	199	209	218	208	210				
Chuck blade pot roast, B.I.												
1973	85	94	96	98	96	95	96	101	102	93	92	91
1974	101	108	97	91	87	84	90	97	94	90	87	87
1975	87	84	81	88	99	106	109	103	100	101	100	98
1976	97	90	84	88	90	89	83	80	82	82	83	88
1977	85	84	81	82	86	83	82	82	81	87	88	89
1978	92	97	102	110	118	124	120	118				
Ground beef												
1973	79	85	93	93	94	94	94	96	101	101	99	99
1974	102	106	102	95	93	89	91	93	94	88	85	84
1975	81	78	76	80	88	91	92	88	88	87	86	87
1976	86	85	82	85	87	86	84	82	82	78	80	82
1977	81	81	79	79	82	79	80	82	81	81	82	84
1978	87	94	101	108	115	119	116	116				
Veal, cutlet												
1973	285	296	308	314	314	314	316	325	323	326	327	326
1974	341	348	350	343	341	342	340	345	348	342	336	339
1975	328	323	317	319	325	326	334	326	321	320	320	323
1976	306	305	304	301	305	310	309	307	302	298	297	296
1977	310	314	310	313	313	315	316	319	318	317	324	324
1978	310	316	321	326	336	369	391	396				
Pork:												
Top loin chops												
1973	148	154	161	154	155	151	165	186	172	166	163	165
1974	170	172	166	158	157	150	170	172	170	167	168	167
1975	172	169	168	170	183	190	209	209	211	210	210	200
1976	199	198	194	188	194	196	198	190	184	174	171	170
1977	182	180	175	173	180	178	197	196	193	190	188	191
1978	195	199	200	197	202	208	210	209				
Sirloin roast												
1973	95	100	103	100	100	102	107	126	115	109	108	108
1974	111	114	107	101	99	95	110	113	110	109	111	112
1975	114	113	112	113	122	131	149	149	151	153	151	143
1976	144	143	139	137	139	142	145	137	132	122	115	114
1977	121	122	117	113	118	120	133	129	130	126	124	127
1978	132	138	136	139	140	147	146	147				
Bacon, sliced												
1973	101	105	108	108	108	111	114	142	139	131	127	128
1974	128	127	118	113	108	100	112	124	131	130	135	134
1975	139	140	138	142	149	157	168	187	196	198	179	167
1976	162	160	155	156	160	161	164	157	158	142	128	127
1977	132	132	133	133	139	142	150	149	155	144	134	135
1978	142	152	162	173	166	162	157	155				
Ham, smoked whole												
1973	81	80	84	84	84	84	87	99	98	97	99	102
1974	100	99	99	89	84	77	83	87	87	88	93	97
1975	98	98	95	96	100	103	110	117	121	128	128	130
1976	128	125	123	120	120	121	122	119	111	111	106	117
1977	112	109	115	108	107	119	111	110	112	116	122	128
1978	124	125	125	122	121	123	124	125				
Lamb, loin chops												
1973	203	211	219	218	216	215	219	230	224	216	219	222
1974	229	234	230	224	234	248	249	249	246	246	247	250
1975	255	257	251	262	270	278	278	281	275	278	279	282
1976	282	280	282	295	316	319	310	303	283	280	288	284
1977	290	299	301	300	320	319	320	306	316	317	319	323
1978	343	347	355	361	363	365	362	357				

[1] Data from USDA, ESCS retail price survey. BLS data previously used, discontinued.

Supply and distribution of commercially produced meat, by months, carcass weight

Meat and period	Supply			Distribution				
							Civilian consumption	
	Production[6]	Beginning stocks[4]	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks[4]	Military	Total	Per person[2]
	Million pounds							Pounds
Beef:								
1977								
July	1,970	413	165	14	374	12	2,148	10.0
August	2,229	374	186	17	350	12	2,410	11.2
September	2,122	350	198	15	346	15	2,294	10.7
October	2,095	346	134	12	301	8	2,254	10.4
November	2,080	301	102	10	291	12	2,170	10.1
December	2,045	291	228	20	316	10	2,218	10.3
1978								
January	2,077	316	143	15	314	13	2,194	10.2
February	1,953	314	163	18	319	8	2,085	9.6
March	2,074	319	199	18	357	17	2,200	10.2
April	1,910	357	224	17	372	20	2,082	9.6
May	2,066	372	208	17	389	42	2,198	10.2
June	1,960	389	192	19	375	28	2,119	9.8
July	1,853	375	179	16	335	9	2,047	9.5
Aug.	2,096	335	155	24	312	28	2,222	10.3
Veal:								
1977								
July	62	12	1	1	11	1	62	.3
August	72	11	1	1	11	1	71	.3
September	71	11	2	2	11	(3)	71	.3
October	70	11	2	1	10	(3)	72	.4
November	68	10	1	1	10	1	67	.3
December	63	10	8	1	11	(3)	69	.3
1978								
January	62	11	2	1	13	1	60	.3
February	56	13	3	(3)	13	(3)	59	.3
March	60	13	1	1	12	1	60	.2
April	50	12	2	1	13	1	49	.2
May	52	13	2	1	11	(3)	55	.3
June	47	11	1	(3)	10	1	48	.2
July	44	10	1	1	9	1	44	.2
Aug.	50	9	1	(3)	9	1	50	.2
Lamb & Mutton:								
1977								
July	25	14	1	(3)	14	(3)	26	.1
August	29	14	1	(3)	14	(3)	30	.1
September	30	14	1	1	12	(3)	32	.2
October	29	12	(3)	1	10	(3)	30	.2
November	27	10	1	(3)	9	(3)	29	.1
December	25	9	3	(3)	10	1	26	.1
1978								
January	25	10	3	(3)	9	(3)	29	.1
February	22	9	4	(3)	9	(3)	26	.1
March	28	9	3	1	8	(3)	31	.2
April	25	8	5	(3)	9	(3)	29	.2
May	26	9	3	(3)	10	(3)	28	.1
June	25	10	3	1	10	(3)	27	.1
July	23	10	5	(3)	12	(3)	26	.1
Aug.	25	12	3	1	11	(3)	28	.1
Pork:[5]								
1977								
July	869	228	39	29	179	8	920	4.3
August	1,074	179	35	32	145	8	1,103	5.2
September	1,130	145	32	37	158	8	1,104	5.1
October	1,151	158	27	32	166	5	1,133	5.2
November	1,241	166	17	30	209	8	1,177	5.5
December	1,108	209	50	42	186	6	1,133	5.3
1978								
January	1,050	186	42	35	174	9	1,060	4.9
February	1,013	174	42	26	174	6	1,023	4.8
March	1,179	174	50	30	218	9	1,146	5.3
April	1,093	218	46	32	281	11	1,033	4.8
May	1,125	281	40	36	281	12	1,117	5.1
June	1,046	281	37	32	258	12	1,062	4.9
July	962	258	41	28	218	6	1,009	4.7
Aug.	1,101	218	33	39	179	11	1,123	5.2
Total Meat:								
1977								
July	2,926	667	206	44	578	21	3,156	14.7
August	3,404	578	223	50	520	21	3,614	16.8
September	3,353	520	233	55	527	23	3,501	16.3
October	3,345	527	163	46	487	13	3,489	16.2
November	3,416	487	121	41	519	21	3,443	16.0
December	3,241	519	289	63	523	17	3,446	16.0
1978								
January	3,214	523	190	51	510	23	3,343	15.5
February	3,044	510	212	44	515	14	3,193	14.8
March	3,341	515	253	50	595	27	3,437	15.9
April	3,078	595	277	50	675	32	3,193	14.8
May	3,269	675	253	54	691	54	3,398	15.7
June	3,078	691	233	52	653	41	3,256	15.0
July	2,882	653	226	45	574	16	3,126	14.4
Aug.	3,272	574	192	64	511	40	3,423	15.8

[1] Excludes production from farm slaughter. [2] Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies. [3] Less than 500,000 lb. [4] Beginning 1977, excludes beef and pork stocks in cooler. [5] Changed to carcass weight. See article by L.A. Duewer. [6] Totals based on unrounded data.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	1977	1978								
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	Dollars per 100 pounds									
SLAUGHTER STEERS:										
Omaha:										
Choice, 900-1100 lb.	43.13	43.62	45.02	48.66	52.52	57.28	55.38	54.59	52.40	54.26
Good, 900-1100 lb.	39.34	39.81	40.70	44.30	47.70	51.96	50.60	50.06	48.59	50.02
California, Choice 900-1100 lb.	44.97	44.75	46.81	51.50	55.91	59.65	58.03	55.81	52.95	54.44
Colorado, Choice 900-1100 lb.	43.94	43.70	44.28	49.26	53.49	58.32	56.22	54.71	52.09	54.72
Texas, Choice 900-1100 lb.	43.69	43.72	44.75	49.21	53.10	58.23	55.94	54.48	51.96	54.19
COWS:										
Omaha:										
Commercial	26.00	28.62	31.64	33.78	38.18	40.28	38.80	39.40	38.55	40.46
Utility	25.02	27.59	30.34	32.44	36.94	39.21	37.61	38.09	37.85	39.75
Cutter	23.55	25.72	28.95	30.68	35.38	37.34	35.98	36.66	35.87	38.23
Canner	21.96	24.24	26.95	29.04	33.22	34.74	33.48	34.41	33.70	35.79
VEALERS:										
Choice, S. St. Paul	40.50	40.50	43.75	47.60	69.45	77.26	73.28	75.72	81.66	83.25
FEEDER STEERS:										
Kansas City:										
Choice, 400-500 lb.	43.84	46.15	51.78	57.64	61.10	68.17	67.00	68.42	71.61	74.51
Choice, 600-700 lb.	41.33	44.07	47.60	52.00	55.08	60.36	58.56	60.60	63.08	64.46
Good, 600-700 lb.	38.33	40.28	44.00	47.76	51.00	57.36	53.38	55.60	56.30	58.26
All weights and grades	39.71	42.85	46.89	51.39	53.81	59.85	57.42	58.67	58.22	60.23
Amarillo:										
Choice, 600-700 lb.	41.83	44.22	47.91	52.52	54.33	59.28	57.03	59.67	59.92	63.50
Good, 600-700 lb.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia Auctions:										
Choice, 600-700 lb.	37.67	40.38	44.12	48.90	51.00	55.00	53.25	55.00	56.80	59.12
Good, 400-500 lb.	37.25	38.88	43.75	49.10	51.50	57.20	54.00	56.75	61.30	63.12
SLAUGHTER HOGS:										
Barrows and Gilts:										
Omaha:										
Nos. 1 & 2, 200-220 lb.	45.48	46.98	49.77	48.04	46.65	50.22	49.17	47.90	49.32	50.50
Nos. 1 & 2, 220-240 lb.	45.38	46.95	49.72	48.01	46.60	50.15	49.06	47.82	49.33	50.51
All weights	43.61	45.66	48.65	47.39	45.89	48.98	47.95	46.62	48.48	48.88
Sioux City	44.13	46.08	49.26	47.77	46.22	49.25	48.19	46.94	48.83	50.34
7 markets[1]	43.99	45.99	48.83	47.50	46.04	49.17	48.31	46.78	48.77	50.00
Sows:										
7 markets[1]	36.21	39.63	44.43	43.36	42.96	44.99	42.82	41.36	43.77	45.10
FEEDER PIGS:										
Nos. 1 & 2, So. Mo., 40-50 lb. (per hd.)	30.38	35.88	44.12	51.63	54.57	54.08	45.36	45.21	50.83	52.91
SLAUGHTER LAMBS:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	58.75	61.44	64.88	76.69	73.12	72.85	61.44	60.62	59.70	62.88
Lambs, Choice, So. St. Paul	56.35	60.79	62.95	70.08	63.25	67.00	58.42	57.41	56.92	61.49
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	25.75	26.19	26.94	28.40	23.81	24.15	25.50	27.33	28.80	31.88
Ewes, Good, So. St. Paul	16.40	19.00	18.25	17.56	17.00	16.40	17.50	18.00	20.20	20.38
FEEDER LAMBS:										
Choice, San Angelo	68.83	67.00	76.31	80.85	73.33	75.05	68.75	69.33	76.10	80.38
Choice, So. St. Paul	60.68	64.97	65.52	66.66	62.32	62.56	62.50	62.11	65.50	70.16
FARM PRICES:										
Beef cattle:	35.50	37.20	39.90	43.80	47.30	50.30	51.30	49.80	48.80	51.60
Calves	37.50	40.80	44.50	49.10	52.90	58.30	59.00	59.90	61.70	65.40
Hogs	41.50	43.90	47.90	46.80	44.80	47.80	47.70	45.20	47.50	47.60
Sheep	14.60	16.30	17.60	19.20	19.30	18.80	19.20	19.10	20.50	23.90
Lambs	56.90	61.00	62.60	67.70	64.20	67.20	62.80	58.70	58.90	64.50
MEAT PRICES:										
Wholesale:										
Midwest Markets:[2]										
Steer beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	68.10	68.74	71.08	74.88	81.43	88.48	85.95	84.81	79.94	81.96
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 lb.	66.34	66.96	69.22	73.27	80.15	86.74	83.84	82.46	77.96	79.80
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	51.97	57.64	62.92	67.79	74.13	76.17	73.53	77.62	74.99	77.50
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	88.70	91.60	92.63	90.04	89.29	97.70	100.54	97.03	93.66	101.78
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	51.32	59.37	67.14	74.58	70.61	66.97	56.87	57.93	58.39	60.46
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	92.09	83.00	87.76	80.35	72.34	78.45	77.45	78.07	83.54	93.04
East Coast:										
Steer beef, Choice 600-700 lb.	71.46	72.32	74.70	78.21	84.60	92.18	89.74	87.77	83.47	85.43
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 35-45 lb.	118.33	124.19	128.86	135.72	133.11	135.93	122.23	116.93	119.02	124.88
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 55-65 lb.	115.50	119.36	124.50	130.32	123.00	131.57	115.12	113.46	116.00	121.06
West Coast:										
Steer Beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	72.58	72.19	74.57	79.25	85.51	92.37	91.37	88.06	84.32	88.17
Retail:[3]										
Beef, Choice	155.7	159.5	161.7	167.0	176.0	185.9	195.2	191.6	189.3	
Veal	174.5	176.5	180.3	183.0	186.0	191.3	210.3	223.0	225.8	
Pork	130.5	133.8	138.0	139.2	141.6	141.4	144.2	144.2	144.4	
Lamb	189.7	199.8	206.8	214.0	220.3	224.7	236.7	222.2	222.6	
Price Indexes (BLS, 1967=100)[3]										
Wholesale meat	183.6	185.9	198.2	197.6	205.3	216.0	220.4	213.2	206.9	
Retail meat	178.3	183.1	188.7	193.6	200.8	206.2	216.5	214.5	213.2	
Beef and veal	168.0	171.1	177.0	182.0	191.9	201.0	216.0	213.0	211.6	
Pork	191.7	199.6	205.2	208.4	211.5	211.3	215.8	214.4	212.4	
Other meats	182.3	186.5	191.2	198.5	204.5	208.8	214.4	214.3	215.2	
LIVESTOCK-FEED RATIOS, OMAHA[2]										
Beef steer-corn	21.1	21.7	22.2	22.8	23.3	24.4	23.8	25.5	26.5	27.7
Hog-corn	21.4	22.7	24.0	22.2	20.4	20.9	20.6	21.8	24.5	24.9

[1] St. Louis N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis. [2] Bushels of No. 2 Yellow Corn equivalent in value of 100 pounds liveweight. [3] See special article, LMS-222.

Selected marketings, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit					1978							
		Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
FEDERALLY INSPECTED:													
Slaughter:													
Cattle	1,000 head	3,320	3,283	3,244	3,200	3,238	3,046	3,243	2,969	3,215	3,052	2,869	3,247
Steers	1,000 head	1,477	1,422	1,416	1,438	1,500	1,450	1,553	1,410	1,549	1,442	1,327	1,487
Heifers	1,000 head	1,010	969	866	862	905	851	934	855	909	864	885	1,026
Cows	1,000 head	758	818	892	840	779	691	693	643	688	676	597	664
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	76	74	70	60	54	54	63	61	68	69	60	70
Calves	1,000 head	403	391	398	387	368	336	386	304	288	271	261	304
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	568	525	477	441	425	390	487	430	451	441	406	438
Hogs	1,000 head	6,514	6,507	6,885	6,186	5,969	5,840	6,794	6,213	6,298	5,778	5,402	6,227
Percentage sows	Percent	5	5	6	6	5	6	5	4	4	5	6	6
Average liveweight per head													
Cattle	Pounds	1,021	1,020	1,026	1,033	1,041	1,037	1,033	1,032	1,033	1,032	1,032	1,037
Calves	Pounds	207	211	206	196	211	208	205	207	220	213	207	203
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	103	109	110	109	111	113	113	113	112	111	112	110
Hogs	Pounds	236	239	243	239	236	233	234	237	241	244	241	239
Average dressed weight													
Beef	Pounds	602	597	596	597	606	605	605	607	608	609	612	613
Veal	Pounds	124	126	123	116	125	122	119	119	126	128	125	120
Lamb and mutton	Pounds	51	54	55	56	56	57	57	57	56	55	56	55
Pork	Pounds	168	171	173	171	169	167	167	170	172	175	172	171
Production:													
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,993	1,956	1,929	1,908	1,956	1,838	1,956	1,798	1,948	1,850	1,748	1,983
Veal	Mil. lb.	49	49	48	45	46	41	46	37	38	35	32	37
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	29	28	26	24	24	22	28	24	25	24	23	24
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,090	1,107	1,189	1,053	1,006	973	1,132	1,053	1,083	1,007	926	1,060
COMMERCIAL:													
Slaughter:[1]													
Cattle	1,000 head	3,572	3,556	3,542	3,470	3,468	3,268	3,468	3,180	3,435	3,257	3,061	3,456
Calves	1,000 head	474	471	474	450	425	387	439	352	336	318	304	347
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	588	545	496	456	437	402	502	450	467	457	423	459
Hogs	1,000 head	6,762	6,771	7,198	6,528	6,240	6,090	7,068	6,459	6,556	6,022	5,630	6,479
Production:													
Beef	Mil. lb.	2,122	2,095	2,080	2,045	2,077	1,953	2,074	1,910	2,066	1,960	1,853	2,096
Veal	Mil. lb.	71	70	68	63	62	56	60	50	52	47	44	50
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	30	29	27	25	25	22	28	25	26	25	23	25
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,130	1,151	1,241	1,108	1,051	1,013	1,179	1,093	1,125	1,046	962	1,101
COLD STORAGE STOCKS FIRST OF MONTH:[2]													
Beef	Mil. lb.	350	346	301	291	316	314	319	357	372	389	375	335
Veal	Mil. lb.	11	11	10	10	11	13	13	12	13	11	10	9
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	14	12	10	9	10	9	9	8	9	10	10	12
Pork	Mil. lb.	145	158	166	209	186	174	174	218	281	281	258	218
Total meat and meat products[3]	Mil. lb.	569	579	532	565	567	560	574	662	748	759	722	642
FOREIGN TRADE:													
Imports: (carcass weight)													
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	200	136	103	236	145	168	200	226	210	193	180	156
Pork	Mil. lb.	32	27	17	50	42	42	50	46	40	37	41	33
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	1	([4])	1	3	3	4	3	5	3	3	5	3
Exports: (carcass weight)													
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	8.63	9.02	8.56	11.58	10.05	13.43	12.99	13.45	11.35	14.63	12.59	20.10
Pork	Mil. lb.	27.14	26.44	28.48	25.20	23.53	17.60	19.15	21.50	24.21	20.56	19.15	28.21
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	.45	.48	.39	.39	.32	.29	.55	.21	.16	.11	.10	.16
Live animal imports:													
Cattle	Number	50,438	63,641	199,276	226,361	99,989	116,515	96,065	145,015	128,024	63,833	46,492	31,540
Hogs	Number	3,929	3,382	3,090	3,042	2,282	3,851	6,386	12,181	15,318	15,701	38,944	41,115
Sheep and lambs	Number	659	5,241	1,202	180	3	1	0	36	20	60	1,960	1,025
Live animal exports:													
Cattle	Number	15,010	10,787	11,873	11,846	4,962	7,419	5,351	6,304	7,884	12,134	7,698	21,198
Hogs	Number	1,224	485	1,110	849	652	659	1,134	659	475	1,751	798	425
Sheep and lambs	Number	14,905	24,710	14,771	31,537	5,964	3,255	12,013	3,859	30,148	16,125	11,404	22,435

[1] Federally inspected and other commercial. [2] Beginning Jan. 1977 excludes beef and pork stocks in cooler. [3] Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed. [4] Less than 500,000 lb.

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